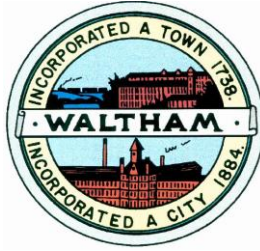


City of Waltham



Fernald Use Committee April 8, 2019 Minutes of the meeting

Chairman McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman McLaughlin asked if anybody was recording the meeting. Mr. Chris Gambal said that he was recording the meeting.

Attendance: Councillor Darcy, Councillor Fowler, Councillor R. LeBlanc, Councillor Nabulime, Chairman McLaughlin.

Councillor Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

1. Request – Councillor Randy LeBlanc dated March 25, 2019.
Invite CPW Director in to discuss moving his department to the Fernald property.

Councillor LeBlanc moved to hear from off committee members. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. CPW Director Michael Chiasson appeared before the committee. Councillor LeBlanc asked Mr. Chiasson about the current leaf operations program. Mr. Chiasson said the department currently brings all leaves and brush back to the city yard and then has it hauled away off site. Mr. Chiasson said the city would need three to five acres to manage this process in house. Councillor LeBlanc noted the composting operations up on Beaver Street, and the previous use of the Cemetery Department. Mr. Chiasson said odor was an issue when the city composted up at the Mount Feak Cemetery. Councillor LeBlanc asked what he thought about composting up at the Fernald. Mr. Chiasson said he thought the city would be better off contracting this service out. Maybe even combining it with the current curbside yard waste outside contract. Councillor Fowler asked how much personnel would be need to perform this service in house. Mr. Chiasson said not very much if the program was just using it internally, not re-selling product. Councillor Fowler said the first step would be to determine if there is an acceptable place up at the Fernald to do a composting operation.

Councillor Fowler made a motion to have the CPW explore a possible location up at the Fernald for leaf composting on the non CPA portion of the property. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy reminded the committee of the current agreement between the State and the City of Waltham; The State gets 50% of any profits derived on site. Mass Historic still has oversight of the property. And, there is a perennial brook running through the property that requires a 200 yard buffer area. Councillor Darcy also stated that noise, lights and odor were problematic when the Cemetery ran the composting operation up at the Cemetery. Councillor Nabulime said she wants a Police Station over a leaf program up at the Fernald. Councillor Nabulime asked Mr. Chiasson about the size of the City yard. Mr. Chiasson said the site is 22 acres, but 10 acres cannot be used. Councillor Nabulime asked why CPW can't continue to use the current site. Mr. Chiasson said that once the rail trail comes in there will not be enough space for truck movement. Councillor Nabulime asked what the costs of the leaf program is. Mr. Chiasson said \$ 235,000 for disposal and \$ 25,000 for soil purchase. Councillor Nabulime said we should not be wasting our time on talking about this being up at the Fernald site. Off committee, Councillor Mackin said we should think about the big picture. Both can be done, a Police Station and a composting facility. Councillor Darcy stated that many improvements have been made to the City Yard over the years. The City has spent a lot of money complying with DEP mandates at this location. Councillor Darcy made a request that the City Auditor inform the committee on how much money has been spent at the City yard in the last fifteen years. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Fowler moved to place this matter back on the table. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

2. Request – Councillor Randy LeBlanc dated March 25, 2019.

That the School Department provide the cost of parking school buses in Belmont.

Councillor LeBlanc move to hear from off committee members. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. School Business Manager Leanne Wilcinski appeared before the committee. Ms. Wilcinski said that the School Committee is still in pursuit of parking the school buses at Fernald. Councillor LeBlanc asked about current operational costs. Mr. Wilcinski said they currently park thirty school buses in Belmont, and it currently costs about \$ 200,000 a year. Ms. Wilcinski said the City would also receive about \$ 6,000 in excise tax if vehicle were parked in Waltham. Councillor LeBlanc asked how much space is required. Ms. Wilcinski said their current site is a little over two acres, and they also have a 100,000 square foot facility. Councillor Darcy made a request that the Finance committee Clerk provide the minutes of previous budget discussions on this matter. Motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Nabulime asked if other sites are being considered. Ms. Wilcinski said no. Chairman McLaughlin asked when the current contract is up. Ms. Wilcinski said it is up at the end of next year. Councillor Fowler moved to place this matter back on the table. Motion was adopted on a voice vote.

Councillor Fowler made a motion to adjourn. Motion was adopted on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Magno
Clerk – Fernald Use Committee

