

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Minutes of the Meeting

March 6, 2017

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. Present: Councillors Brasco, Darcy, Fowler, D. LeBlanc, R. LeBlanc, Logan, Marchese, McLaughlin, McMenimen, O'Brien, Romard, Rourke, Waddick. Absent: Councillors Giordano and Vidal.
3. A motion by President LeBlanc to approve the minutes of the COW meeting held on February 21, 2017 was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes were approved.
4. A Resolution regarding the 380 Lexington Street Traffic Plan and Demolition sponsored by Councillor Fowler: Councillor Fowler had requested the Mayor to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the resolution. A letter had been received from the Mayor stating she would be available to appear and discuss the resolution once the funding request to award the bid for the RFP on the traffic improvement design was submitted. Councillor Fowler moved to table the resolution. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the item was tabled.
5. Councillor Romard moved to take the resolution concerning the Traffic Master Plan (2/13/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor McMenimen stated her earlier resolution that was in the Economic & Community Development Committee had been filed and was not relevant to this matter. Councillor Romard moved to hear from off-committee individuals - Traffic Engineer Michael Garvin and representatives from the consultant who performed the study, McMahan Associates. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Mr. Garvin gave a brief overview of the scope of the project and McMahan Associates had a presentation to show the Committee. While the presentation was being setup, there was a brief recess to hear another docket matter.
6. Councillor Darcy moved to take the matter concerning the property located at 52R Winter Street (2/13/2017) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy moved to suspend Rule 9 to hear from City Engineer Steve Casazza. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy had asked Mr. Casazza to appear to give his professional opinion if increasing flood storage through the acquisition of this property would provide a benefit to the City. Mr. Casazza stated he provided a memo to the Committee that explained his research on the property and led to his conclusion that the property would not provide any significant additional flood

storage capacity. Councillor Fowler stated Mr. Casazza's analysis confirmed it was not a benefit to the City to acquire the property. Councillor Darcy moved to table the land acquisition matter. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the item was tabled.

7. The presentation for the Traffic Master Plan was ready to view and was primarily conducted by the project manager, Maureen Chlebek. Ms. Chlebek explained the scope included five tasks - 1. Existing inventory and data collection, 2. Evaluate existing and future conditions, 3. Identify issues/deficiencies & develop an action plan, 4. Master plan and 5. Stakeholder coordination. A summary of the project meetings and dates was provided. The report indicated 92 intersections were analyzed (73 with signals, 18 without signals and 1 roundabout), including crash data analysis. The transportation modes for vehicle, transit, bicycle and pedestrian traffic were considered. Additional highlighted areas included Moody Street, Main Street, Winter Street, Piety Corner and Newton/River/ Grove Streets. The consultant also provided commentary on downtown parking options and enhancements. Councillor Romard asked several questions concerning the traffic impacts along Lexington Street and the potential impact of a new Waltham HS at the Stigmatine property. Councillor Romard also inquired if a roadway through the Fernald property had been studied. Councillor Romard asked the consultant to identify the top three action plans resulting from the report. The consultant stated it was Main Street, the former Polaroid site and long term parking. Councillor McMenimen questioned the role of the City Council in this traffic plan. Councillor McMenimen recommended the Traffic Engineer and consultant attend a future meeting of the COW to continue the discussion. Councillor McMenimen moved to table the item. On a roll call vote of 8 in favor (Brasco, Darcy, R. LeBlanc, McLaughlin, McMenimen, Romard, Rourke and Logan), 4 opposed (Fowler, Marchese, O'Brien and Waddick) and 3 absent (Giordano, D. LeBlanc and Vidal) the motion was adopted and the matter was tabled.
8. A motion by Councillor Marchese to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote, and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 9:15pm.

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