

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of the Meeting
June 15, 2015

1. Vice President LeBlanc called the meeting to Order at 8:00 pm.
2. Vice President LeBlanc requested that a roll call be taken to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – all Councillors were present.
3. A motion by President Marchese to accept the minutes of the meeting held on May 18, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
4. A motion by President Marchese to accept the minutes of the meeting held on June 1, 2015 was adopted on a voice vote.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to appoint Edward Wack, 75 Harland Road, Waltham as a member of the Biosafety Committee. Councillor Giordano moved to hear from off-committee members – Health Director John Zuppe and Edward Wack. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Giordano asked Mr. Zuppe to explain the purpose and scope of the Biosafety Committee. Mr. Zuppe spoke in great detail about its function and responsibilities. Councillors Logan, Rourke, McMenimen and Giordano asked follow up questions of Mr. Zuppe and asked questions of Mr. Wack, including his background and experience. Councillor Giordano moved to approve the appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to appoint Michelle Feeley, 224 Lowell Street, Waltham as a member of the Biosafety Committee. Councillor Rourke moved to hear from an off-committee member – Michelle Feeley. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Rourke asked Ms. Feeley to give a brief summary of her background, including her qualifications, experience and reasons for serving. Councillor Rourke moved to approve the appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to re-appoint Joan Garniss, 12 Stanley Road, Waltham as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. Councillors Romard and McMenimen spoke highly of Ms. Garniss citing her long service and commitment to the Library. Councillor Romard moved to approve the appointment. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A resolution concerning the power outage on Moody Street on May 29 and May 30 was submitted by Councillor Logan. Councillor Logan moved to hear from off-committee members – Eversource representatives Jack Lopes and Leo Keefe. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Upon questioning from Councillor Logan, Mr. Lopes and Mr. Keefe explained the circumstances and the reasons for the power outage. Councillor Logan questioned the method and the substance of message used by Eversource to communicate to the business owners on

Moody Street. Follow up questions and comments from Councillors Brasco, Rourke, Romard, Fowler, Darcy, Stanley, McMenimen, McLaughlin, Giordano and Waddick expressing their concern and criticism of Eversource for this incident and other situations around the City, including communication protocols, removal of double poles and general site improvements resulting from their work. Councilor Logan moved to request that Mr. Lopes and Mr. Keefe attend the COW meeting on August 3, 2015 to present and explain the Moody Street area utility upgrade plan. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Logan moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.

9. Councillor Brasco moved to take the matter concerning public safety projects (9/8/2014) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Brasco referenced the communication from the Mayor on a combined Police/Fire headquarters. Councillor Brasco moved to request the Mayor to move forward with the architect for the design of a public safety facility on the current site. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Brasco moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. Councillor Logan moved to take the matter concerning the establishment of a cultural district in the Waltham Downtown (5/26/2014) from the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Logan moved to hear from off-committee members, Bob Perry of the Downtown Waltham Partnership, Elisabeth Carter of the Waltham Cultural Council and Catherine Cagle, Planning Director. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. On questioning from Councillor Logan, Mr. Perry and Ms. Carter spoke in enormous detail of the purpose and benefits of a cultural district and the process the City would need to undertake to establish one. Councillor Logan asked Ms. Cagle what assistance the City could provide towards this project. Councillor Romard urged Ms. Cagle to “step to the plate” and assist the people on the Cultural Council. Councillor Waddick spoke of including parts of Main Street in the cultural district. Councillors Rourke and Darcy spoke enthusiastically in support of the project. Councillor Logan moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. A motion by Councillor Waddick to adjourn was adopted by a voice vote and the Chair declared the Committee adjourned at 10:18 pm.