



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

Unaccepted Ways Task Force

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Searles Building 41 Pleasant Street Room 308 Methuen, Massachusetts 01844
Council Office Telephone (978) 983-8510 Fax (978) 983-8975

Eunice Zeigler, East District City Councilor
Allison Saffie, West District City Councilor
Steven Saba, East District City Councilor
Joel Faretra, Central District City Councilor

Minutes

Monday January 17, 2023 6:00pm

Searles Building, City Hall, 41 Pleasant St. Methuen, MA 01844

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
 - a. Councilors Faretra, Saba, Saffie, Zeigler present along with Steve Gagnon and Ken Rossetti
3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
 - a. unanimous
4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Minutes from the December 19th Meeting
6. PRESENTATIONS
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -
 - a. Discussion of policy legislation to address the practice of unaccepted ways:
 - The Solicitor gave a general overview of his research this far and advised the task force to focus on policy to serve as a guide to the process rather than a legal memorandum.
 - Councilors Saba and Faretra echoed the solicitor's sentiments about clarifying the policy and further discussed the next steps should review the existing unaccepted way portfolio.
 - Councilor Saffie suggested that the City establish an appropriation to address maintenance of unaccepted ways.
 - Task force can work on a guide utilizing the towns of Natick, Middleton, and Westford.
 - Mr. Gagnon elaborated on the compliance measures for an accepted way as conforming to subdivision standards water, sewer and 26 ft. of pavement, curbing and sidewalks on both sides.
 - A discussion took place around the standards by revised the make it more attainable for residents to get accepted.



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- b. Review of the Listing of Accepted and Unaccepted Ways
 - Mr. Gagnon committed to conducting an audit of the street listing to ensure that all streets are listed. He also confirmed that whether a street is accepted or unaccepted, not including HOA's, they will receive basic services.
 - Mr. Gagnon will also work with the legal department to provide clear definitions to the terms unaccepted way, private way, paper streets and accepted way.
 - The task force engaged the discussion need to hire title examiners to review streets in some cases.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Creation of a preliminary unaccepted ways review roster - The committee discussed the following:
 - Rachel Rd
 - Bicknell Ave
 - Don Ave
 - Deana Street
 - Marlborough Ave
 - Cornish Street
 - Cornish Street Extension
 - Gaston Street
 - Hampstead St Ext. - Mr. Gagnon stated that Hampstead St. Ext was not laid out and therefore was consider and easement.
 - Sugar hill Circle
 - Goldsmith Court
 - Brown Court

9. UPDATES/CONCERNS:

10. NEXT MEETING

11. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Eunice Zeigler, **City Councilor**

For information on participating in or watching this meeting, please see the following page.



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USEFUL INFORMATION & RESIDENT ACCESS

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

IN PERSON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Residents are welcome to share their input and feedback during “public participation,” in accordance with Council Rules, no advance notice necessary.

WRITTEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA EMAIL. You may choose to submit your public participation by contacting City Council Clerk Linda Gagnon at lmgagnon@ci.methuen.ma.us or a City Councilor who is a member of the task force prior to the meeting. City Councilor’s contact information can be found here: <https://www.cityofmethuen.net/city-council>

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