

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Committee Report as APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure that this is the Committee Report that was presented at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen, you should check the Minutes of that meeting in order to confirm its approval, rejection or amendment. Do not rely on the accuracy of this information without first checking with the City Clerk.

June 8, 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Housing and Community Development held a meeting on June 8, 2009 with Chairman Rebekah Gewirtz presiding and Committee members Aldermen William Roche and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Maryann Heuston, Chief of Staff Michael Lambert, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, SPCD Executive Director Monica Lamboy, Wig Zamore and Stephen Mackey from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Lambert discussed the history of the proposed Green Line maintenance facility and stated that the mayor would like the site situated in an area adjacent to North Point, known as Mirror Scheme H. This location is preferred as there would be no impact on the quality of life for the city's residents and there would be no negative impact on proposed development. Mr. Lambert also discussed proposed development on Innerbelt Road and said that a maintenance facility there would hurt the art restoration businesses at 200 and 150 Innerbelt Road. Details of the North Point project, including a new Lechmere MBTA station, were discussed as were meetings with the Brickbottom community.

Mr. Zamore explained that the DOT does not want the maintenance facility situated at North Point because it is fearful that potential North Point developers might sue for diminution of value. He also suggested that the concerns of the residents of East Cambridge be considered to minimize their impact on Somerville's proposals. Chairman Gewirtz, along with Aldermen Roche and Heuston, expressed their desire to focus on Somerville's concerns.

The committee discussed preparing a letter to the DOT explaining why the North Point location is better for the city.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman Rebekah L. Gewirtz, Chairman
Committee on Housing and Community Development