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August 20, 2009

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**ON LAND USE**

The Committee on Land Use met in Joint Session with the Planning Board on August 20, 2009, with Chairman Sean O'Donovan presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston and William White also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Rebekah Gewirtz and Thomas Taylor, members of the Planning Board, Rob May from SPCD and interested members of the public.

**Public Hearing:** Amendment to the IA, IB and IP Industrial Districts, (Case #PB2009-04), to alter uses currently allowed in the IA, IB and IP Industrial Districts and to make associated map changes. The proposed amendment would incorporate changes to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Somerville with respect to the official zoning map and Articles 6 and 7. The area of the map change proposal is generally located in the south east corner of the City in an area east of I-93 that can only be accessed off of Rutherford Road in Charlestown.

Mr. May gave a brief presentation of the proposed amendment and discussed innovative ways to use the land in question. Mr. May also explained where rail facilities would be and discussed where the city of Somerville's land is in the North Point area. Alderman White expressed concern over a waste to energy facility being added in the Industrial B district and questioned why retail and restaurant operations are being removed from Industrial B.

Mr. Wig Zamore spoke in favor of the proposal but expressed concern about the maintenance facility at North Point, diminution of value and "as of right" land uses and their environmental impacts.

Ms. Ellen Riser spoke against the proposal citing concerns over waste facilities.

Alderman Heuston submitted a letter, dated July 30, 2009, from the Cambridge City Manager and asked that it be reviewed further. Alderman Heuston also discussed her concern regarding the impact of Somerville's decisions on East Cambridge.

The public hearing was closed.

Chairman O'Donovan will keep the record open until October 1<sup>st</sup> to receive any additional written comments. (The Planning Board will keep the record open until September 3, 2009)

No Papers were acted on.

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Alderman Sean T. O'Donovan, Chairman  
Committee on Land Use