

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.

January 23, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works convened on January 23, 2008, with Chairman John Connolly presiding and Committee Member Alderman Bruce Desmond also present. Also present were Aldermen Walter Pero and William White, Michael Buckley from the Mayor's Office and Bill Zamparelli from NSTAR.

Mr. Zamparelli addressed the committee regarding power outages in the city and told the members that most outages are back within 2 hours. The outage that affected Willow Ave. was caused by a station outage and lasted approximately 4 hours. Mr. Zamparelli said that Somerville has 50% overhead lines and 50% underground lines. Mr. Zamparelli told the members that NSTAR's goals and objectives are given to the Department of Public Utilities and that NSTAR is in the city to provide electricity and gas to its customers.

Mr. Zamparelli informed the members that NSTAR has made a decision to transfer lines within 3 weeks of setting a new pole, effectively eliminating the need to wait for other utilities to move their lines. The latest count indicates that NSTAR has 10 poles waiting for lines to be transferred. Authority will be given to the DPW to access NSTAR's database of double poles.

Alderman White spoke about the trimming of trees that hang over utility lines and the lack of advance notification given to residents, especially since the city has the capability to communicate with its residents via the Connect-CTY system. Mr. Zamparelli stated that no tree trimming is scheduled in Somerville for 2008 and added that emergent growth would be trimmed by regular crews. He further stated that NSTAR's tree trimming contractor is required to post notices 48 hours in advance of any trimming. Mr. Zamparelli also said that some trees should be replaced because they are the wrong type in the wrong place and that NSTAR would work with the city to replace them. Alderman Desmond asked that he wants someone to follow up to be sure the requirements are being met and policies followed. Chairman Connolly requested that Mr. Zamparelli forward NSTAR's tree trimming regulations to the committee.

Chairman Connolly will request information regarding double poles from all utility companies doing business in Somerville and will also schedule a committee meeting to meet with all utility company representatives.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman John M. Connolly, Chairman
Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and
Public Works, January 23, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk