

## Minutes - DRAFT

**Public Body:** Planning & Construction  
**Date:** May 9, 2023  
**Location:** Hybrid (Zoom and City Hall Meeting Room)

### **Members Present:**

Jean Wall (Chair)  
Carole Collins  
Mike Pratt  
Nancy Hazard  
Amy Proetti

### **Members Absent:**

Emily Eash

### **Staff Liaison:**

Caitlin von Schmidt

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm.

### **Update on construction projects.**

- The building is mostly finished, the city has taken possession.
- The fire station is going quickly.

Report from Carole Collins

- Carole recommends advocating for a facilities master plan.
- There's a new word – decarbonization.
- Cambridge did a municipal facilities plan.
  - Plan involves space planning and making sure space is good space.
  - Building on dashboards, plans on how to replace oldest things, how to get funding, and how to be prepared.
- Melrose did school and other buildings.
- Carole could do the research and take this on.
  - Will get estimates for projects.
- Northampton set aside \$3 million for clean energy projects.
- It should not be an astronomical number. The goal is to meet the MA Climate Act and become fossil-fuel-free.
  - We need all electric buildings; we have five (soon six) out of 15 or 17.

Nancy asks what can Planning & Construction do? She'd like to see a list of what needs to be done.

Carole reports GHS is not all-electric but is minimal gas. 10 years ago we were going for gas but newer buildings are more efficient.

Jean asks what the next building should be, Carole reports Green River School but what's happening with it? Amy says GPS has started a dialog with the Mass School Building Authority, Christine Debarge has been assigned a case manager. Documents need to be reviewed: do we need to repay the loan if used for a non-educational purpose?

NESDEC study – process for what we want to do (upgrades or remodel existing schools):

- They initiate process (architectural or engineering study).
- They can just say no to spending their money a certain way.
- They prioritize.
- It's similar to the process with the library.

We'll probably have to pay back the loan for non-educational purposes *but* what counts as an educational purpose? Carole recommends talking to the OPM or a lawyer. Amy says the school committee lawyer is looking at SBA docs.

It may be time to build a new, single elementary school, and consolidate existing schools. We're at the very beginning of the conversation. The SBA is the driver of this; they won't pay for remodeling. This is a long-term plan (maybe ten years?).

Carole suggests at the end of each fiscal year we look at what city building is performing the worst and how the city might tackle it. Amy says she will still do research on a consultant on document storage. Carole is currently working on the city fleet. In addition, George VanDelinder, head of Central Maintenance, is retiring next month. She is going to get as much info as possible from him, and she suggests getting the new person as a member of the committee, or at least attending regularly.

Carole makes a motion to adjourn; Mike seconds.

**Adjourn**