

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL  
FACILITIES & STREETS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (PARTS I & II)  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2019  
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 114**

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*Note: The Facilities & Streets Committee met prior to a scheduled Special City Council meeting, recessed, and then resumed the Committee meeting immediately following the Council meeting. The minutes from both parts are included below.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm by Committee Chair Ann E. Peoples.

**City Councilors Present:** Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); Lawrence McWilliams (Ward 5); David C. Morse (Ward 1); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President)

**City Councilors Absent:** Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President)

**Other City Officials Present:** Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Ashley Rand (Deputy City Clerk); Michael Sanphy (Mayor)

**DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY**

Committee Chair Peoples gave the floor to Abigail Cioffi, Executive Director of Discover Downtown Westbrook, who presented a proposal to establish “no parking” areas 20’ on either side of a crosswalk on Main Street in the downtown area. This proposal is based on Maine Department of Transportation standards and would provide better sight lines for pedestrians as they enter crosswalks. Ms. Cioffi stated that this proposal would eliminate 12 parking spaces.

Mr. Bryant stated that, if approved by City Council, this proposal would likely be implemented in the spring.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments and questions. The following individuals spoke: President Rairdon, Ms. Cioffi, Committee Chair Peoples, Councilor Chau, Mr. Bryant, Councilor Foley

Motion to forward this matter to City Council for consideration.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Foley.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**

**RECESS**

Committee Chair Peoples announced that the Committee would recess at 6:56pm and would reconvene following the scheduled Special City Council meeting.

**RECONVENE**

Committee Chair Peoples reconvened the Facilities & Streets Committee meeting at 7:41pm.

**City Councilors Present:** Victor Chau (Ward 2); Michael T. Foley (At-Large); Lawrence McWilliams (Ward 5); David C. Morse (Ward 1); Ann E. Peoples (At-Large); Gary Rairdon (Ward 4, President)

**City Councilors Absent:** Anna A. Turcotte (Ward 3, Vice President)

**Other City Officials Present:** Jerre Bryant (City Administrator); Eric Dudley (Director of Engineering & Public Services); Stephen Fields (Assistant City Administrator/Director of Human Resources); Dean Flanagan (Westbrook School District Director of Operations); Jeremy Gardiner (Grounds Superintendent); Angela Holmes (City Clerk); Peter Lancia (Westbrook School District Superintendent); Ashley Rand (Deputy City Clerk); Michael Sanphy (Mayor)

### **WESTBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD**

Committee Chair Peoples gave the floor to Councilor Foley, who made the initial referral for this item. Councilor Foley stated that he heard from concerned citizens about the state of the Schools' baseball fields, and how the fields have been unusable during the baseball season. Councilor Foley stated that Westbrook citizens authorized bond funds several years ago for Westbrook Middle School and Saccarappa Elementary School, and that remaining bond funds could potentially be used for this project.

Councilor Foley gave the floor to Greg Souza, Varsity Baseball Coach, who stated that he has received complaints from parents about ticks in the fields and that the fields are wet and unusable. Mr. Souza stated that he believed there was some confusion over which entity (the City or the School District) was responsible for the fields.

Councilor Foley asked Mr. Dudley to comment on the state of the fields. Mr. Dudley stated that it was a very wet spring, and there were many rainouts. He stated that there is an issue with drainage at the Westbrook Middle School baseball field, specifically in the outfield. The outfield is currently used for soccer practice and games. To regrade the field to eliminate the drainage issue for baseball would be possible, but it would make the field unusable for soccer. He stated that no one had approached him with a complaint about this matter to date, but that the City could look at adding underground drainage in the outfield, though it may be an expensive option. Mr. Dudley further stated that the City does not spray fields for ticks or mosquitos.

Committee Chair Peoples opened the floor for comments and questions. The following individuals spoke: President Rairdon, Committee Chair Peoples, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Bryant

Committee Chair Peoples stated that after discussion, the recommendation from the Facilities & Streets Committee is that the City and School develop a steering committee tasked with drafting project options and cost estimates to address the drainage in the outfield, and to have the steering committee return such plans and estimates to the Facilities & Streets Committee when ready.

Motion to adjourn at 8:11pm.

Moved by President Rairdon, seconded by Councilor Foley.

**Motion carried by a show of hands. None opposed.**