

City of Salem, Massachusetts



"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

The City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety & Environment co-posted with Committee of the Whole

met in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at 6:30 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matter(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

July 27, 2017 at 12:30 PM.

(This meeting is being recorded.)

*included in record:
SAFE Resource List on
Natural Gas leaks, June 9, 2017

ATTENDANCE

present

ABSENT WERE: Councillors Gerard, Turel, Eppley, Dibble

Also present: Chief of Staff Demitrick Pargallo, National Grid-Pan Cameron,
Staff Planner Tom Devine

SUBJECT(S)

- #408 - Gas leaks in the city to include the effect on trees, and the scheduling of repairs
- C. Famico introduced order
- Pat Gozempa, 17 Sutton Ave, Salem - SAFE - Salem Alliance for the environment
overview of gas leaks - effects on
trees, health, ~~rate~~ papers, climate change
- survey on Salem streets - 93 miles to see if where there are gas leaks
↳ had Nathan Phillips work w/ city → indications of gas leaks where
trees dying
- Aug 27-31 2016 → Bob Ackley + Nathan Phillips drove streets to check
for gas leaks - invited mayor Driscoll, Rep Tucker, C. Famico to
visit sites of leaks → developed digital database of leaks +
location + size of leak
- now 2 universities analyzing data - BU, SSU
- will convene to compare data to share w/
DPW + National Grid
- SalemSound Coast watch surveyed trees on Entrance Corridors
(grant)

-SAFE Board- engineers, Green investment, democracy, Salem Sound Coast watch + more

- will present data in fall

* To Ask: 1) ^{National Grid} plan for dealing w/ leaks? to work w/ 2016 legislation (environ. detrimental leaks)

o aware: Brookline suing NG for dead + dying trees

Nathan considered

• C. Turrel - how do we determine hazard level of a leak?

Andrey ^{Home Energy Efficiency Team} (HEET) - ranked 1-3

3 - manhole, home (contained space)

2 - within few feet of building Foundation

1 - everything else

- looking at best way to find leaks

• Andrey - HEET (home energy efficiency team)

- mapped leaks - squeezy leaks.org

- figure out best practices to fix leaks faster + for less \$

- lower cost w/ repairing treparibg

- currently Dec. 2016 - NG @ 2 unrepai red gas leaks in Salem, independent studies 1.7 x more

- 71% of leaks ↓ 50 percent by volume, save most ratepayer \$

- MBPC HEET study 20% of area studied, 1/5 of gas leaks have trees w/in zone

- 71% of trees Beacon hill dead/damage w/in gas leak

- check soil of tree pit before planting tree - 20 sec. cost (save 1 tree pay back cost of device)

• C. Eppley - city received offer by Dr. Nathan Phillips (HEET) to use

• Andrey contd.

On the motion of C.

the meeting adjourned at _____ P.M.

(Chairperson)

• Audrey - city of BOS - gas leak ordinance - city can charge

• C. Dibble - how soon can a gas leak leave when fixed?

- leaves soil soon - but bacteria can leave (Audrey)

• C. Turiel - what is incompatible w/ ^{nat} gal. leak to die?

- Audrey - need oxygen through roots

• C. Gerard - how big is leak zone?

- Audrey - can sense gas 100 sq feet some 20k sq ft.

② when inspecting trees, is it something leak?

- Tree warden Kennard - yellow leaves, dying

C. Gerard - how often?

- Tree warden - had suspicions, called 10 yrs ago

• if proven leak + contributed to tree - does it mean NG liable for replacement?

- Dan Cameron, Nat'l Grid - not sure. Gas now to NG

• C. Dibble - why would we want to sit on results when we have some results?

/C. Famico - what is happening now?

- Dan Cameron - sat in a group - how can we work better to fix leaks?

• NG has 20+ plan

- city of Salem - oldest infrastructure in Salem

- replace: ¹⁾ based on leak history ²⁾ if city repaving + replacing pipes

- will see changes - not safety issues but environmental issues

- resource problem - contractors

• C. Dibble - looked at data, has NG taken action?

- Dan - what they know, grade 2+3 leaks

- C. Dibble - asked for list of D. Knowlton list of repaired + fix leaks

- mentioned street w/ neighbors commenting on leaks w/ tree issues

- Dan - way leaks fixed - know leaks, history, determine where - prioritization. Also aware of repaving.

• C. Famico - how is prioritization done? city vrs. regionally?

- need city miles

- prioritize in community

• C. Eppley - streets reamed etc. - have sit down w/ city engineer winter/spring

- councillors get list in summer - DSP meets w/ NG before

Dan - talk before, sometimes \$ preecs up

• Pat Gozemba - Dibble looked at data at URL to go to HECT map (NG info)

Nathan Phillips data not released yet. want accurate data

- C. Dibble - know about some now, NG doesn't have some now

• Audrey - Worcester good case study - share with list - city knows

where there are things. to fix → find work to do

• Sandy Power, 18 Loring Ave - education on gas leaks interested in Salem's

history. old pipes - leaks at joints. generally old pipes. wide +

can put sleeve inside. (rare)

• Jeff Cohen, 12 Hancock St. Salem - is there any grade/situation where if

established tree died can replace or compensate?

Dan - can't answer right now

• Jon Hayes, 13 Hancock St - Renewable energy task force

- Harvard Study annual cost 2016 - \$20 mil to fix cost in MA

{ repair work vrs. replacement of pipe

- replacement more \$ than repairs

{ total # in MA Grade }

• Flora Tenthat, Northey St - how can you prove a tree dies from gas?

Audrey - can only rely on levels etc.

• C. Turiel - need copy of Boston's ordinance, cont. discussion w/ trees

• Barbara Warren - Hancock St. - tree inventory - can't get city street

trees recorded - size, condition, stump, → put stan trained -

once data completed - follow → look at data + compare

• C. Eppley - can we get granular in data w/ overlays - gas leak + overlay - trees in zone in outside →

- Barbara - in GIS - layers - figuring out how to show

- Audrey - in Google earth.

- Pat - prof. at SSU - met w/ many → talked about overlays

• C. Turicl - adjourn

C. Gerard - 2nd

Adjourned: 7:39pm

