



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Oliver, Malakie, Humphrey, Lobovits, Baker, and Farrell

Absent: Councilors Oliver and Micley

City Staff: Barney Heath, Director of Planning; Jennifer Martin, Director of Transportation Planning; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; and Jaclyn Norton, Committee Clerk

All agendas and reports, both past and present can be found at the following link: [Programs & Services Committee | City of Newton, MA \(newtonma.gov\)](https://www.newtonma.gov/Programs-Services-Committee)

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link: [Programs & Services Committee - October 23, 2024 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#389-24

Authorization to acquire Christina Street Bridge land

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to acquire a 11,210 square foot portion of the Price Center parking lot at 25-27 Christina Street for the price of four hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$430,000) to be used for development of access to a new shared-use path bridge over the Charles River.

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 6-0**

Note: Jennifer Martin, Director of Transportation Planning, described that this project is part of the bicycle-pedestrian transportation network and presented the attached presentation which showed the bridge's location. Replacing this bridge will help connect the Upper Falls Greenway, DCR Blue Heron Trail in Needham, and both Northland and Northland Charlemont. In 2021 VHB worked with the City to complete a feasibility study. Resulting of this study and the public outreach the recommendation was made to build a new single-span, pre-fab truss bridge. The attached presentation outlines the current funding source of ARPA funds and future funding opportunities for the rest of the project. This item is focused on the land acquisition needed to ensure access to this bridge. Ms. Martin noted that this is a friendly land acquisition with a negotiated price of \$430,000. If approved the Law Department will move forward with the land acquisition and VHB will begin design work in 2025.

Councilors asked if Newton would be paying for the whole project or if Needham would be contributing. Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer, stated that the Town of Needham is not

committing any money but several private doners in Needham are willing to contribute. Questions were also asked if we were looking at taking over the bridge as that is currently owned by the state as well as adding an open space restriction to the property. Mr. Yeo and Barney Heath, Director of Planning, stated that this has not yet been discussed with the State. Regarding the open space restriction, it was said that it could not be done at this time due to the deadline to allocate ARPA funding but could be added later.

Committee members voted 6-0 on motions to create item #389-24(2), approve #389-24 and hold #389-24(2) from Councilor Humphrey.

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#389-24(2) Request for deed restriction for open space on Christina Street Bridge land
PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a deed restriction for open space on a 11,210 square foot portion of the Price Center parking lot at 25-27 Christina Street which will be used for access to a shared-use path bridge over the Charles River.

Action: Programs & Services Held 6-0

Note: This item was discussed concurrently with item #389-24. A written report can be found with item #389-24.

#387-24 Reappointment of Michelle Freshman to the Health and Human Services Advisory Council
HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Michelle Freshman, 39 Gray Cliff Road, Newton as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Council for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2027. (60 Days: 12/20/24)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: The Chair read item #387-24 into the record. Councilors citing no questions voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Malakie.

#388-24 Reappointment of Sam Figler to Newton Commonwealth Foundation
HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing Sam Figler, 63 Sumner Street, Newton as a member of the Newton Commonwealth Foundation for a term of office to expire on October 30, 2027. (60 Days: 12/20/24)

Action: Programs & Services Approved 6-0

Note: The Chair read item #388-24 into the record. Councilors citing no questions voted 6-0 on a motion to approve from Councilor Baker.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Krintzman, Chair**