

Ten Hills Neighborhood ResiStat Meeting Notes

April 16, 2008

City Officials Present:

Walter Pero, Ward 4 Alderman
Capt. John O'Connor, Somerville Police
Officer Alex Capobianco, Somerville Police
Ethan Field, ResiStat Analyst, Mayor's Office

Updates From Previous Meetings:

Ethan Field gave updates on issues raised at previous meetings. (See presentation.)

- Residents spoke positively of the use of the banner along Shore Drive to inform them of this meeting.
 - Multiple residents reiterated the concern about overnight commercial parking on residential streets. However, it was unclear from the resident description whether or not the commercial vehicles in question were actually in violation of the law (legally prohibited from 12AM-6AM.)
 - A residents also raised a concern about vehicles parked on Temple Road underneath the highway. This resident said that sometimes these vehicles look like they may be occupied vehicles waiting for a light, causing residents to pull up behind them and wait, but then the vehicles don't move.
 - Residents had noticed that there had been some improvement in the steel plates on Mystic Ave near Stop & Shop, but that more work needed to be done.
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City Budget Process:

Ethan Field walked residents through the City's annual budget process. (See presentation.)

- A resident said she's been hearing from other residents that they are learning about other cities and towns in Massachusetts that are in dire financial straits, shutting down schools and libraries, etc. These things are not currently happening in Somerville, but residents are wondering, "How long can we hold out? When will this hit us?" Other residents heads nodded in response to this, sharing that same concern.
- Capt. O'Connor, Ald. Pero, and Ethan Field responded that Somerville likely took its worst hit in FY 2003, when there were massive cuts in state aid to cities. Ethan added that part of the purpose of SomerStat is to track and manage department finances and performance very carefully, so that the city can respond real-time to the changing economic climate.

Resident Priorities:

Residents were each given five votes to distribute any way they wished between the options described in the presentation, and added new ones not mentioned in the presentation. These issues will be combined with other neighborhoods' priorities to create a resident budget priorities report. Issues that emerge as the highest neighborhood or City-wide priorities will inform the City Departments as they set their goals for the upcoming year. These departmental goals determine how each department prioritizes its staff time and budget. Items originating with this ResiStat group are in **bold**.

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Issue</u>
21	Assembly Square traffic mitigation
15	Push FAA to Address Airplane Noise
12	Implementing community policing program
9	Repaving Temple Road and catchbasin repair
9	Pushing State to address traffic dangers at Mystic Ave and Rt. 28
8	Start "Winter Hill Main Streets" program
8	Repave Gov. Winthrop Road
6	Monitoring overnight commercial parking on Ten Hills neighborhood streets
5	Address drainage problems at Shore Drive & Crest Hill that cause flooding basements
4	Push MBTA / Mass Highway to pave bus stop at Mystic/Temple
3	Weekend hours at our branch libraries
3	Push Mass Highway to re-set steel plates on Mystic Avenue
3	Push DCR for Trash barrel at Rt. 28 and Shore Drive
3	Online credit card payment services for city bills and transactions
2	Safe-START pedestrian improvements
2	Take over management of State-run parks and facilities
2	Purchasing reduced-emission and alternate fuel City vehicles
2	Citywide Wi-Fi
2	Work with DCR, Som. Conservation Commission, and residents about shoreline maintenance.
1	Citywide tree inventory and expanding number of trees by 20%
0	Senior Housing developments
0	East Somerville Community School
0	Small Business micro-loans and storefront renovation grants.
0	Renovating City parks
0	Dedicated computer kiosks in public buildings
0	New city website and improved calendar of city events
0	Affordable housing developments
0	Magoun Square traffic/pedestrian renovations
0	Re-zoning Union Square
0	Central welcome desk at City Hall