



Braintree Town Council
Committee on the Department of Public Works
One JFK Memorial Drive
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

MEMBERS

Charles Ryan, Chairman
Julia Flaherty, Vice Chairwoman
Lawrence Mackin, member

October 3, 2023
MINUTES

A meeting of the Committee on the Department of Public Works was held in Johnson Chambers, Braintree Town Hall, on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:30p.m.

There was a moment of silence for all those serving in our armed services, past and present, and the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Councilor Charles Ryan, Chairman was in the Chair.
Clerk of the Council, Susan Cimino conducted the roll call.

Present: Charles Ryan, Chairman
Julia Flaherty, Vice-Chairwoman

Not Present: Lawrence Mackin, member

Also Present: Jim Arsenault, DPW Director
John Thompson, Asst DPW Director/Town Engineer
Ryan Matheson, Engineering Manager
Mary Mulrone, National Grid representative
Joseph Alongi, resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- **23 056 National Grid Petition: 142 – 204 Hobart St or take up any action relative thereto**

Chairman Ryan discussed the recommendations by BELD and DPW. He stated National Grid agrees to all requested staff recommendations. This is not subject to moratorium.

Motion was read by Vice-Chairwoman, Councilor Flaherty for favorable recommendation to the full Council with Staff Recommendations:

MOTION: To relay approximately 200 feet of 2-inch coated steel (1957) and approximately 580 feet of 2-inch bare steel (1941/1948) with approximately 780 feet of 2-inch plastic gas main in Hobart Street, from the existing 2-inch plastic (2002) at house #142, to the end of main at house #204 with staff recommendations

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with this location.

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject petition and the accompanying plans for the gas main replacement on Hobart St. The work is being proposed as part of a program to eliminate aging gas infrastructure. Hobart St. is not subject to the excavation moratorium, having been resurfaced by total reconstruction in 2003. As such, the DPW recommends that the petition approval contain the following conditions if it is to be so granted:

- A temporary patch shall be placed immediately after the work. The street excavation should be saw-cut, backfilled, and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two-inch lifts to match the existing street grade.
- After maintaining the temporary patch through one winter, National Grid must return the following spring to perform a permanent trench repair on all disturbed roadway segments. The permanent patch should be an 8-foot-wide mill and overlay, to a pavement depth of 1.5 inches. If the edge of the permanent patch falls within 2-feet of the roadway gutter, the patch should be extended completely to the roadway edge. Tack coat should be applied to milled surfaces and joints prior to paving. Finished joints should be treated with a rubberized asphalt sealer.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- National Grid must arrange a pre-construction meeting with Braintree DPW and Braintree Police Department to discuss utility corridor assignment as well as traffic control for the project. The new gas mains must not encroach on any existing utilities.
- Neither National Grid nor any of its contractors is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the

Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor's engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Flaherty to Approve Order 23 056

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Vote: For (2 – Flaherty, Ryan), Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

• **23 057 National Grid Petition: Parkside Cr, Gale Ave, Rita Rd or take up any action relative thereto**

Chairman Ryan discussed the recommendations by BELD and DPW. He stated National Grid agrees to all requested staff recommendations. This is not subject to moratorium.

Motion was read by Vice-Chairwoman, Councilor Flaherty for favorable recommendation to the full Council with Staff Recommendations:

MOTION:

- **Relay approximately 145 feet of 2-inch bare steel (1948) with approximately 145 feet of 2- inch plastic gas main in Parkside Ave, from the existing 2-inch plastic (2008) at house #157, to the end of main at house #174.**
- **Relay approximately 715 feet of 2-inch bare steel (1941) and approximately 310 feet of 2- inch coated steel (1960/1970) with approximately 1025 feet of 2-inch plastic gas main in Parkside Cir, from the existing 2-inch plastic (2008) at house #3, to the end of main at house #77.**
- **Relay approximately 330 feet of 2-inch coated steel (1960) with approximately 330 feet of 2-inch plastic gas main in Gale Ave, from Parkside Cir to the end of main at house #31.**
- **Relay approximately 730 feet of 2-inch coated steel (1961) with approximately 730 feet of 2-inch plastic gas main in Rita Rd, from Gale Ave to the end of main at house #75 all with staff recommendations:**

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with locations stated below:

Parkside Avenue

Parkside Circle

Gale Avenue

Rita Road

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject petition and the accompanying plans for the gas main replacement on portions of Parkside Ave, Parkside Cir, Gale Ave and Rita Rd. The work is being

proposed as part of a program to eliminate aging gas infrastructure. None of the roadways are subject to the excavation moratorium, having all been resurfaced by overlay in 2011 or earlier. As such, the DPW recommends that the petition approval contain the following conditions if it is to be so granted:

- A temporary patch shall be placed immediately after the work. The street excavation should be saw-cut, backfilled, and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two-inch lifts to match the existing street grade.
- After maintaining the temporary patch through one winter, National Grid must return the following spring to perform a permanent trench repair on all disturbed roadway segments. The permanent patch should be an 8-foot-wide mill and overlay, to a pavement depth of 1.5 inches. If the edge of the permanent patch falls within 2-feet of the roadway gutter, the patch should be extended completely to the roadway edge. Tack coat should be applied to milled surfaces and joints prior to paving. Finished joints should be treated with a rubberized asphalt sealer.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- National Grid must arrange a pre-construction meeting with Braintree DPW and Braintree Police Department to discuss utility corridor assignment as well as traffic control for the project. The new gas mains must not encroach on any existing utilities.
- Neither National Grid nor any of its contractors is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor's engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Flaherty to Approve Order 23 057

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Vote: For (2 – Flaherty, Ryan), Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

• **23 062 National Grid Petition: Howard Ct/Howard St or take up any action relative thereto**

Chairman Ryan discussed the recommendations by BELD and DPW. He stated National Grid agrees to all requested staff recommendations. This is not subject to moratorium.

Motion was read by Vice-Chairwoman, Councilor Flaherty for favorable recommendation to the full Council with Staff Recommendations:

MOTION: To relay approximately 220 feet of 1.5-inch bare steel (1913) with approximately 220 feet of 2-inch plastic gas main in Howard Court, from Howard Street to the end of main at house #20 with staff recommendations:

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with locations stated below.
7-20 Howard Court

DPW:

The DPW has reviewed the subject petition and the accompanying plans for the gas main replacement on Howard Ct. The work is being proposed as part of a program to eliminate aging gas infrastructure. Howard Ct. is not subject to the excavation moratorium, having been resurfaced by total reconstruction in 2001. As such, the DPW recommends that the petition approval contain the following conditions if it is to be so granted:

- A temporary patch shall be placed immediately after the work. The street excavation should be saw-cut, backfilled, and compacted in 8-inch lifts, paved to match existing asphalt depth (with a minimum depth of four inches) in two-inch lifts to match the existing street grade.
- After maintaining the temporary patch through one winter, National Grid must return the following spring to perform a permanent trench repair on all disturbed roadway segments. The permanent patch should be an 8-foot-wide mill and overlay, to a pavement depth of 1.5 inches. If the edge of the permanent patch falls within 2-feet of the roadway gutter, the patch should be extended completely to the roadway edge. Tack coat should be applied to milled surfaces and joints prior to paving. Finished joints should be treated with a rubberized asphalt sealer.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- National Grid must arrange a pre-construction meeting with Braintree DPW and Braintree Police Department to discuss utility corridor assignment as well as traffic control for the project. The new gas mains must not encroach on any existing utilities.
- Neither National Grid nor any of its contractors is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues

are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Flaherty to Approve Order 23 062

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Vote: For (2 – Flaherty, Ryan), Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

• **23 063 Resident Petition: 159 Hawthorn Road or take up any action relative thereto**

Residents Joseph Alongi and Nancy S. Hargreaves want to cut the sidewalk curbing out to double their driveway. This is a very busy street and need the room to turn the car around so they do not have to back out of the driveway. They just moved here one year ago and did not realize this road was so busy.

Chairman Ryan discussed the recommendations by BELD and DPW. He stated the resident agrees to all requested staff recommendations.

Motion was read by Vice-Chairwoman, Councilor Flaherty for favorable recommendation to the full Council with Staff Recommendations:

MOTION: To allow resident at 159 Hawthorn Road to widen the driveway which includes removing the sidewalk curbing with staff recommendations.

BELD: BELD has no conflicts with location stated below.
159 Hawthorn Road

DPW: The DPW has reviewed the subject resident petition to widen the driveway at 159 Hawthorn Rd. Hawthorn Road is subject to the excavation moratorium, having been resurfaced by mill and overlay in 2022. New sidewalks and granite curbing were also installed as part of the resurfacing project. As such, the DPW recommends that if the petition is approved, it contains the following conditions:

- The Applicant shall employ a town approved contractor to perform the work. The contractor shall be qualified to make precision permanent repairs to new asphalt surfaces.
- The roadway shall be squarely saw-cut, no more than 18-inches from the face of the granite curbing to facilitate removal of the granite curbing to widen the driveway. Existing granite shall be reused and reset wherever possible and set in concrete per DPW specifications.

- New asphalt areas within the Town right-of-way shall be replaced with no less than 3-inches of asphalt placed in two 1.5-inch lifts. Existing grades and surfaces shall be matched seamlessly at all asphalt joint locations. All vertical joint surfaces shall be painted with tack coat prior to paving and treated with a rubberized crack sealer on the final paved surface.
- The contractor shall ensure that the newly laid sidewalk and driveway apron areas are ADA compliant.
- The Braintree DPW shall reserve the right to reject the work and require replacement if it does not meet quality standards.

We also recommend that the following requirements be added to the permit, if it is to be granted:

- No contractor is authorized to close any street or to close a direction of travel to facilitate their work without authorization from the Director of the Department of Public Works or the Highway Superintendent. The Chief of Police can also authorize a closure for a police or fire emergency. Construction zone traffic safety issues are to be addressed by using appropriate traffic control signs and devices and the use of police officers for traffic control to safely guide traffic through the work zone. If a closure is authorized by the DPW, it shall not be implemented until signs and police officers (where needed) are properly in place in conformity with the written plan prepared by the contractor’s engineer and approved by the DPW and Police Department.

Motion: by Councilor Flaherty to Approve Order 23 063

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Vote: For (2 – Flaherty, Ryan), Against (0), Absent (1 - Mackin), Abstain (0)

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:18p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Cimino
Clerk of the Council

Documents provided for Meeting

- 23 056 National Grid Petition: 142 – 204 Hobart St or take up any action relative thereto
- 23 057 National Grid Petition: Parkside Cr, Gale Ave, Rita Rd or take up any action relative thereto
- 23 062 National Grid Petition: Howard Ct/Howard St or take up any action relative thereto
- 23 063 Resident Petition: 159 Hawthorn Road or take up any action relative thereto