



Special Communications Committee – Board of Representatives

Bob Lion, Chair Nina Sherwood, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room #1, 4th Floor Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Communications Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Lion, Vice Chair Sherwood and Committee Member Reps. Michelson, Moore, Nabel and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Matherne and Morson. Also present were Rep. Michelson; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Arthur Augustin, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Media and Communications; and Taylor Gray, City Information Manager.

Chair Lion called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. C30.015	REVIEW; Establish Rules for the Use of City-Collected Email List By Board of Representatives Members and Other Elected Officials and Departments and Boards. 03/04/19 – Submitted by Rep. Lion	Report Made & Held

The Committee discussed this item with the invited guests:

- The City has an email policy
- There is currently a bill proposed in the State to permit electronic public notices, but this bill does not seem to have strong support; many local publishers are dependent upon this income
- Individual representatives could bring public notices to their constituents' attention, but there needs to be a central place for such information
- Someone giving the City an email address does not mean that it can be used in ways other than as the citizen approved;
- The Board of Representatives would need a dedicated site to send out emails to citizens
- The City does not want to violate a citizen's privacy rights; emails are not viewed differently than phone numbers as to the ability and right to use
- The Committee was seeking to have the City collect information and consent to be contacted by Representatives through various City entities
- The Committee's goal is to have the City have control of the list, not have a separate Board of Representatives platform
- There are two issues, one is to get information out, and the other is whether or not to get feedback

- There is a different view by the legal department as to lists that are used to give out information and those used for opinions or political purposes
- Nothing prohibits Board of Representatives members from collecting information; but a City site used for purposes other than disseminating of information requires legal input
- How the platform is structured depends upon whether it is targeted City-side or by neighborhood; someone will need to be responsible for oversight
- How will duplicative emails be avoided
- Who will ensure that emails are not political
- There need to be multiple filters – one for citywide communication; one for communication to district members
- How would responses from constituents be handled? What are the rules going to be?
- The Board needs the City to help collect email addresses; this would require the citizens to be told of the intended use and have the citizen consent to that purpose. The purpose must be explicit. The City does not collect names/addresses, only email addresses at this point, and the citizens opt to receive “snow emergency notices”
- The City currently does not collect addresses, the list is not sortable by district
- There is no permission to go back to individuals who have already opted in to get snow alerts
- It is possible when the website is redesigned, all of the emails would need to go out through Granicus (the company hosting the website)
- Representatives will work on what the opt-in should look like

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Moore, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

2. C30.016	REVIEW; How the Plastic Bag Ordinance is being Communicated to the Public and Affected Businesses. 03/04/19 – Submitted by Rep. Lion	Report Made & Held
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Mr. Augustin stated that he is in contact with the Chamber of Commerce and the DSSD. He and Mr. Gray are making a flyer similar to that being done by Greenwich. The Chamber and DSSD will distribute this. They will also put up fliers around town and will work with Dan Colleluori to inform people.

Rep. Nabel stated that she is working with BYOB, WOW and Rep. Roqueta to get reusable bags donated to the food bank, etc. Dominic Cingari of Shop Rite already has a program for people to donate bags in his Norwalk store,

This is an opportunity for Representatives to go out to their constituents. There is a notice up on the City website. Representatives will go out to businesses and inform them of the requirements.

The Government Center will also have a donation day for reusable bags.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Moore, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

3. C30.017 REVIEW; Establishment and Administration of a **Report Made**
Board of Representatives Facebook Page, Including
what Information Would be Included.
03/04/19 – Submitted by Rep. Lion

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Lion, Sherwood, Moore, Nabel and Zelinsky in favor).

Chair Lion adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lion, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)