



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, July 26, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins. Absent or excused was Committee Rep. Saftic. Also present were Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Lion, Patterson, and Pratt. Also present were Mayor David Martin; Michael Pollard and Robin Stein, Mayor's Office; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Chris Dellaselva, Law Dept.; Bharat Gami, Building Dept.; Thomas Turk, Operations Dept.; Dudley Williams, Board of Finance; Arthur Selkowitz, Mill River Park Collaborative; Jay Costello, WMC; Vincent Tufo, COC; and four members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. O30.016	APPROVAL; Agreement with Wengell, McDonnell & Costello for West Main Street Bridge - Walkway Rehabilitation Project 07/10/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 07/12/18 – Approved by Board of Finance	Approved 4-1-3

¹ Mr. Pollard gave an overview of the history of the bridge. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic by the Connecticut DOT in 2002. The Mill River Corridor Plan was modified to make it pedestrian only, and a resolution was passed in 2008. The main reasons were 1) the safety of the bridge was compromised and 2) the walkability improved the West Side community area.

² Mr. Casolo explained the structural issues with the bridge. Wengell, McDonnell & Costello (WMC) has been involved in this project since 2001, and has done many inspections over the past several years. Based on the last inspection, although the bridge is currently safe, it is beginning to fail. Mr. Casolo and Mr. Costello discussed the specific areas of the bridge that are beginning to fail.

Mr. Casolo explained that The Mill River Collaborative has received a \$2 million grant from the State of CT and has chosen to re-direct the funds towards this bridge rehabilitation. This contract is for the design of the project, and the schedule is fast-tracked; WMC plans for the design to be completed by the spring of 2019. The City goal

¹ Video Time Stamp Part 1 00:02:05

² Video Time Stamp Part 1 00:08:05

is for project completion by the summer of 2020. The bridge is 130 years old, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of this, WMC is collaborating with Ryan Biggs, an historic structural engineering firm.

³ Mayor Martin gave a brief history of this project and stated since the bridge will be rehabilitated instead of replaced the timeline is much faster.

⁴ Mr. Selkowitz discussed the bridge in relation to the Mill River Park, and the safety importance of not having vehicles use it. The bridge is a big connection between the West Side and the downtown area. He agreed to divert the \$2 million dollar grant to this project because he was told the project could be started in one year.

⁵ Committee Members asked questions and discussed the item. It was discussed whether or not the bridge should once again allow vehicular traffic. Rep. de la Cruz distributed the [attached](#) aerial photo of the bridge. Mr. Pollard explained that if it were to return to a vehicular bridge, the URC would have to be involved in approving it because it requires a material change to the Mill River Corridor Plan.

A motion to continue this item on Aug. 2nd was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 3-4-1 (Reps. Zelinsky, Adams, and Sherwood in favor; Jacobson, Coleman, Lee and Watkins opposed; Mahoney abstaining).

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-1-3 (Reps. Jacobson, Coleman, Lee and Watkins in favor; Mahoney opposed; Zelinsky, Adams and Sherwood abstaining).

- ⁶3. [O30.017](#) REVIEW; Meet with new Chief Building Official, **Report Made**
 Bharat Gami.
 07/11/18 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

This item was taken up out of order. Mr. Gami discussed his background, qualifications, and ideas for his new position. He then answered questions from the Committee.

- ⁷4. [O30.014](#) REVIEW; Update on Repairs to Sea Wall on Weed **Held 8-0-0**
 Avenue.
 03/29/18 – Submitted by Reps. Figueroa and
 Sherwood
 4/23/18 – Report Made & Held in Committee
 5/14/18 – Moved to Pending

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins in favor).

³ Video Time Stamp Part 1 00:21:51

⁴ Video Time Stamp Part 1 00:32:22

⁵ Video Time Stamp Part 1 00:35:22

⁶ Video Time Stamp Part 2 00:50:48

⁷ Video Time Stamp Part 2 01:03:07

- ⁸2. O30.015 REVIEW; The New Bagged Leaf Pickup Program **Continued 4-1-1**
Being Proposed by Mayor Martin.
07/10/18 – Submitted by Reps. Watkins, Michelson
and Sherwood

This item was taken up out of order. Mayor Martin discussed the proposed program, which he explained is due to budget cuts that he is required to find. The approximate expected savings to the City would be \$150,000 to \$175,000. Leaf pickup is a complicated program and both the loose leaf and bagged programs have challenges. He distributed the [attached](#) information. It is very difficult to have the same rules for everyone because of the many different types of properties in Stamford. Mr. Turk described the current process of leaf pickup. It is important to minimize the leaves that end up in storm basins. The method in which the leaves are removed is not dictated by CT DEEP. While the City would be more in compliance by using bagged pickup, the City is currently in compliance with the loose leaf pickup. Mayor Martin explained the following:

Advantages of bagged pickup:

- Manpower savings
- Reduced equipment savings
- Reduced damage to lawns, roads and curbs
- Reduced tonnage from some residents being able to blow leaves into woods
- No equipment conversion issues when early winter storms start
- Less traffic issues during pickup
- Not as much regulation needed regarding where to put piles of leaves
- Less issues with windblown leaves that have already been piled

Disadvantages of bagged pickup:

- Additional cost to homeowners having to pay landscapers to bag or haul away
- More work to homeowners who do it themselves
- Cost of bags
- Much more difficult for the elderly and disabled, regarding both physical challenges and the additional costs required
- Higher tic exposure
- Wet bags weaken and break
- First year or two will be a challenge to enforce until everyone is on board
- Although City will be saving money, homeowners will be spending more

⁹ The Committee discussed this item with Mayor Martin, Mr. Pollard and Mr. Turk.

A motion to continue this item next month was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 4-1-1 (Reps. Jacobson, Lee, Mahoney and Watkins in favor; Sherwood opposed; Adams abstaining).

Chair Jacobson recessed the meeting at 11:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#))

⁸ Video Time Stamp: 01:04:02 Part 2

⁹ Video Time Stamp: 00:16:23 Part 3