



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins. Also in attendance was Rep. McMullen; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Tom Turk, Traffic and Road Maintenance Supervisor; and two members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O30.081	RESOLUTION; In Favor of Creating a Solarize Stamford Program. 01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. Lee and Jacobson	Report Made & Held 9-0-0

Rep. Lee gave background on this item and there was discussion.

- There is a tremendous amount of information regarding solar energy and putting in solar panels can be a very daunting process. This type of program would provide structure and clarity and help guide property owners.
- This would be a community-led program of volunteers that does not require City funds or necessary approval. The expectation would be that the Administration publicly gives its' support.
- This type of program would engage the community and bring more awareness to solar energy, and hopefully create a snowball effect with other property owners getting involved.
- The target population for the program would be local businesses, single family homeowners, and condominium Home Owners Associations.
- The program should include education on solar panel transactions, such as property owners being aware that liens can be placed on a property when the panels are financed.
- This program would eliminate some marketing costs for the panel companies, and that savings would be passed on to the consumer.
- Language for the resolution will be worked on to be ready for the next Committee Meeting.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:05

- A motion to convert this item to a Review item will be brought up at the next Steering Committee Meeting.

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

²2. O30.082 REVIEW; 2020 Leaf Collection Program. **Report Made**
01/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Di Costanzo

Mr. McGrath and Mr. Turk reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- The model of leaf pickup is the same every year. This year FEMA funds were received to pick up storm debris, which added 20% more work to the process.
- There was a shortage of applicants for seasonal work. The City was only able to get half of the seasonal workforce needed for leaf pickup.
- There was a snowstorm which paused leaf pickup for 56 hours.
- Placement of leaves on the street is usually enforced only if it's a safety issue.
- Densely populated areas with heavy street parking cannot be precisely scheduled as there are too many issues that can arise. Workers will go through to see what areas are missed and trucks will return.
- Some residents have voiced complaints about broken curbs the past few years. Leaves are not supposed to be put on the street, however, the only way to get large heavy piles of leaves off of property is to use a digger and this can break the curbs.
- The 2020 leaf pickup process was done as efficiently as possible, and most constituents that were heard from were pleased with the process.
- Stamford often loses tenured road maintenance employees to Darien, Greenwich and Norwalk, which pay more and have fewer roads to be maintained. This is a loss of long term knowledge which affects efficiency.
- It is dangerous to keep pushing workers to do 12 hours days, six days per week.
- For the upcoming budget season, it should be recognized that the Road Maintenance Department needs to be properly resourced. There are 34 street routes in Stamford and 34 drivers. Mr. Turk would like to request additional drivers beyond the current 34, so there is a buffer to cover employee absences.

If any Representative has information they like would like to share with the Committee regarding leaf pickup and rules, they should send it to the Board Office to be distributed.

A motion to make a report on Item 2 and not continue the discussion any further was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

² Video Time Stamp: 00:24:20