



***Operations, Parks and Recreation Committee - Board of Representatives***

Daniel R. Sandford, Chair

John Pelliccia, Vice Chair

## **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Operations, Parks & Recreation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Sandford, Vice Chair Pelliccia, and Committee Member Reps. Beckham, Bradford, Didelot, Finkel, Gardner, and Zachary. Rep. Salas was excused. Also in attendance were Reps. Adams, Morson, and Walston; Matt Quiñones, Director of Operations; Luke Buttenwieser, Transportation Planner; Lou Casolo, Engineer; Attorney Richard Robinson from Pullman Comley; Brendan Parker from United Civil; Eric Barber, Glen MacDonald, Stephanie Berrios, Christopher Farrell, Carlos Almiron, Peter Taczanowsky, and Samuel Austin from Eversource; and members of the public.

Chair Sandford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#"><u>OPR32.001</u></a>	<b>REVIEW;</b> of Eversource cable modernization project. 12/30/2025 – Submitted by Rep. Didelot	<b>Report Made</b>

Rep. Didelot introduced this item. This is going to be major project affecting multiple districts and he would like to get details on the scope and timeline so he has answers for his constituents.

Mr. Casolo reviewed this project. This is an important resilience project from Eversource along with their contractor United Civil. There will be 26 very large vaults installed, then all of the vaults will be interconnected with underground cabling and conduits. It is a big project in time, cost, and impact to city streets. The purpose is to connect the Cedar Heights and Glenbrook substations.

Several City of Stamford departments are involved in administering this project, as utility companies have to comply with City requirements. It involves excavation permits, police details, traffic plans, and pedestrian safety. The activity for the project is being controlled through the City permitting system. There are monthly coordination meetings with Eversource and the City team.

Mr. Barber reviewed the [attached UCMP presentation](#) in detail, which explains the process of the project.

There was discussion with the Committee and the invited guests.

If people have general questions about the project, they can call the hotline number at 1-800-793-2202 to leave a voice mail and someone will return the call. If there are immediate concerns, a resident can talk to someone on the project on the ground, and the message will get to a member of the Eversource team right away.

Mr. Buttenwieser explained that there are specific timing rules depending on where installation is happening. For instance, if it is in front of a school, it will be done during the summer. Work will be done outside of peak commuting times, such as in during 9:00am – 4:00pm. Traffic planning is key to this project. Eversource assisted in upgrading some traffic signals to make them more efficient in the work areas.

Each vault installation location will have its own traffic management plan. Eversource worked with Benesch Engineering in developing the plans.

It takes up to two weeks to install one vault, so the ground will be open during this time. There will be different types of barriers, depending on where the vault is being installed, such as fencing and Jersey barriers. Plates are not allowed to be put over the holes in the winter, and they are not meant to be driven over with vehicles.

Extensive research and surveying is done before these projects begin so there should not be any problems occurring with connections.

Information can be found on the Eversource website at <https://www.eversource.com/residential/about/transmission-distribution/projects/underground-cable-modernization/ucmp-stamford>.

Chair Sandford noted that community outreach is very important for a project such as this, and the information along with a hotline number should be available on the City of Stamford website.

A report was made on Item #1.

2. <a href="#"><u>OPR32.002</u></a>	<b>RESOLUTION;</b> concerning building permit fees on Commercial Projects exceeding \$1,000,000.00 (orig. <a href="#"><u>O32.001</u></a> ) [ <i>Possible Executive Session</i> ] 12/03/2025 – Submitted by Reps. Boudreau, Goldberg and Hughes 12/08/2025 – Moved to Pending Agenda	<b>Recommit to Steering 8-0-0</b>
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Rep. Boudreau introduced this item. He brought this resolution to the Committee due to his concern that higher permit fees will be passed along to renters and businesses. The current market is not competitive enough between landlords and developers to absorb the cost, so those costs will end up being passed to the renters. Between 2020 and 2023, rents in New Rochelle have decreased by two percent (2%). Lower permit fees alone may not see that type of success, but it is a first step in decreasing rents.

A motion to go into executive session to discuss pending administrative claims and administrative litigation was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Sandford, Pelliccia, Beckham, Bradford, Didelot, Finkel, Gardner, and Zachary in favor).

The Committee members, along with Reps. Adams, Morson, and Walston, Director Quiñones, and Attorney Robinson entered into executive session at 8:01 p.m.

The executive session ended at 8:58 p.m. Chair Sandford announced that no votes were taken during the executive session.

There was a discussion on this item.

The percentage for the permit fees increases after \$1,000,000.

Some representatives discussed having a tiered system so that fees could be leveled up marginally.

Rep. Gardner stated that having tiers would not eliminate the fees being passed on to the renters. Rep. Boudreau said he is open to having a tier structure but thinks the current rates are too high.

Chair Sandford noted that there will need to be a public hearing on this resolution.

Director Quiñones said his department will produce a historical report on permitting so the Representatives can have all of this information before deciding the best way to move forward with this resolution.

A motion to recommit Item #2 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a voice vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Sandford, Pelliccia, Beckham, Bradford, Didelot, Finkel, Gardner, and Zachary in favor).

Chair Sandford adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chair Sandford, Chair

This meeting can be viewed on video ([Part 1](#)) and transcript ([Part 2](#))