



## Public Facilities Committee

7:00 PM, Hybrid  
To be reported on  
Wednesday, August 12, 2026

**The Public Facilities Committee will hold this meeting as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 7:00 PM that the public may access in-person or virtually via Zoom. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/82832380441> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 828 3238 0441.**

### City of Newton Public Facilities Committee

The location of this meeting is accessible, and reasonable accommodation will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please [email the City of Newton's ADA Coordinator](#) at least two business days in advance of the meeting or call at (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

## Items Scheduled for Discussion

### Referred to Public Facilities & Finance Committees

#### **#221-26 CPC recommendation to appropriate \$232,000 for the cupolas and windows at City Hall**

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending the appropriation of two hundred thirty-two thousand dollars (\$232,000) in Community Preservation Act funding from Unrestricted prior Year Reserves (Acct# 5800-3599) to the Planning & Development Department for a grant to the Public Buildings Departments for the cupolas and windows at City Hall.

#### **222-26 Public Hearing 07-22-2026**

##### **Eversource petition for a grant of location on Prescott Street**

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install and maintain approximately 60 feet of underground conduit southerly from utility pole 69/4, approximately 60 feet north of Prescott Street, and install and maintain an additional 450 feet of underground conduit and one new manhole (MH 32916) easterly from the intersection of Prescott Street and Central Avenue, terminating the conduit at 75 Prescott Street.

<https://newtonma.portal.opengov.com/records/931092>

#### **218-26 Requesting a discussion of the “two-foot rule” which allows street openings for utility work without a grant of location**

COUNCILOR LEARY requesting a discussion with the Public Works and Law Departments regarding the origin and legal basis for the “two-foot rule” which allows National Grid to open streets to install new gas pipes without a new grant of location (GOL). The discussion should include reference to State Law requiring City Council approval for gas pipe street openings, National Grid's statement at the December 4, 2024 Public Facilities meeting that it may open streets without a GOL because of the two-foot rule, and exploration of legal pathways to enable Newton to exercise more control over gas pipe installations. This could include the elimination of the "two-foot rule" as well as recommendations of additional actions that the City could take. (180 Days: 01/09/2027)

## CITY OF NEWTON

## DOCKET REQUEST FORM

**DEADLINE NOTICE: Council Rules require items to be docketed with the Clerk of the Council NO LATER THAN 7:45 P.M. ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO A FULL COUNCIL MEETING.**

To: Clerk of the City Council

Date: June 8, 2025

From (Docketer): Mollie Hutchings, Community Preservation Program Manager

Address: Planning Department, Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton MA 02459

Phone: 617-796-1147

E-mail: mhutchings@newtonma.gov

Additional sponsors: Community Preservation Committee

**1. Please docket the following item (it will be edited for length if necessary):**

Recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee that \$232,000.00 of CPA historic resource funds be appropriated to the control of the Planning & Development Department for a grant to the Public Buildings Department for the cupolas and windows at City Hall. The funding should come from the following source:  
Unrestricted Prior Year Reserves( #5800 3599): \$232,000.00

**2. The purpose and intended outcome of this item is:**

- ☒ Fact-finding & discussion  
☒ Appropriation, transfer,  
☒ Expenditure, or bond authorization  
☐ Special permit, site plan approval,  
☐ Zone change (public hearing required)

- ☐ Ordinance change  
☐ Resolution  
☐ License or renewal  
☐ Appointment confirmation  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. I recommend that this item be assigned to the following committees:**

- |                                                       |                                             |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs & Services          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning & Planning            | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety      | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Committee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use           | <input type="checkbox"/> No Opinion        |

**4. This item should be taken up in committee:**

- ☐ Immediately (Emergency only, please). Please state nature of emergency:

- ☒ As soon as possible, preferably within a month  
☐ In due course, at discretion of Committee Chair  
☐ When certain materials are made available, as noted in 7 & 8 on reverse  
☐ Following public hearing

**PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES**

**5. I estimate that consideration of this item will require approximately:**

- |                                                           |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One half hour or less | <input type="checkbox"/> Up to one hour                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than one hour               | <input type="checkbox"/> An entire meeting                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than one meeting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended deliberation by subcommittee |

**6. The following people should be notified and asked to attend deliberations on this item. (Please check those with whom you have already discussed the issue, *especially relevant Department Heads*):**

City personnel

Citizens (include telephone numbers/*email please*)

- |                                                             |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Mollie Hutchings</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Buzz Dunker, CPC Chair (thedunkers@gmail.com)</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Katie Whewell</u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                           |

**7. The following background materials and/or drafts should be obtained or prepared by the Clerk's office prior to scheduling this item for discussion:**

**8. I ☐ have or ☒ intend to provide additional materials and/or undertake the following research independently prior to scheduling the item for discussion. \***

CPC Funding Recommendation Windows and Cupolas at City Hall

*(\*Note to docketer: Please provide any additional materials beyond the foregoing to the Clerk's office by 2 p.m. on Friday before the upcoming Committee meeting when the item is scheduled to be discussed so that Councilors have a chance to review all relevant materials before a scheduled discussion.)*

**Please check the following:**

9. ☒ I would like to discuss this item with the Chairman before any decision is made on how and when to proceed.
10. ☒ I would like the Clerk's office to contact me to confirm that this item has been docketed. My daytime phone number is:
11. ☐ I would like the Clerk's office to notify me when the Chairman has scheduled the item for discussion.

**Thank you.**

**Mollie Hutchings**

**Signature of person docketing the item**

**[Please retain a copy for your own records]**

## Memorandum

To: Public Facilities Committee  
 From: Peter J Barrer, 60 Endicott St, Newton  
 Date: July 17, 2026  
 Re: Docket # #218-26 regarding the “two foot rule”

### Use of the Two-Foot Rule in 2025

As the PFC discusses item #218-26 regarding the “two-foot rule” it is useful to review the history of its use in Newton in 2025.

**In 2025, National Grid installed 30,200 ft of replacement plastic pipe in Newton streets. Only 24% was approved by City Council Grant of Location (GOL) decision as required by state law. The remaining 23,000 ft was installed without such approval. Although some portion was installed for emergency safety purposes, most was installed by a National Grid subcontractor in a systematic planned process.**

**Below and on the next page is the list of Newton streets that National Grid opened in 2025 to install new plastic gas pipe without GOL approval, and the estimated footage in each street. Presumably Newton’s DPW observed the “two foot rule” to permit these installations.**

|                  | Feet  |  |                 | Feet  |
|------------------|-------|--|-----------------|-------|
| ADAMS AVE        | 50    |  | GRAFTON ST      | 865   |
| ALBAN RD         | 50    |  | HANSON RD       | 1,725 |
| ALDERWOOD RD     | 50    |  | HAY RD          | 245   |
| ALLEN AVE        | 1,535 |  | MANEMET RD      | 190   |
| BEACON ST        | 1,695 |  | MCCARTHY RD     | 25    |
| BOTHFELD RD      | 20    |  | MECHANIC ST     | 640   |
| BOYLSTON ST      | 965   |  | MELROSE ST      | 300   |
| CENTRE ST        | 1,735 |  | MONTCLAIR RD    | 370   |
| CHANDLER PL      | 515   |  | NATHAN RD       | 860   |
| CHENEY CT        | 240   |  | NEWTONVILLE AVE | 335   |
| CHENEY ST        | 375   |  | PINE RIDGE RD   | 990   |
| CLINTON PL       | 650   |  | R ROADWAY       | 125   |
| COLELLA RD       | 765   |  | RANSOM RD       | 50    |
| COMMONWEALTH AVE | 245   |  | S ROADWAY       | 365   |

|              |       |  |                     |       |
|--------------|-------|--|---------------------|-------|
| COTTAGE ST   | 30    |  | SAW MILL BROOK PKWY | 300   |
| CRESCENT AVE | 1,285 |  | T ROADWAY           | 370   |
| CRESCENT ST  | 50    |  | WALNUT HILL RD      | 285   |
| CRYSTAL ST   | 50    |  | WARD ST             | 570   |
| DUNSTAN ST   | 290   |  | WETHERELL ST        | 715   |
| ELLIOT ST    | 1,450 |  | WINDSOR RD          | 60    |
| ELLIOT TER   | 305   |  | WOODHAVEN RD        | 35    |
| ELMORE ST    | 35    |  | WOODWARD ST         | 1,055 |

The two sources for this memo are the history of Newton's Grant of Location (GOL) approvals from 2001 to the present, and National Grid's "GREC" submission to the Mass Department of Public Utilities dated May 1, 2026.

Historical data shows that the year 2025 is not unique, because previous years experienced similar use of the "two foot rule".

Upon request, I can provide backup information to support these conclusions.