

Minutes April 15th 2019 Citizen's Forum

25-30 residents attended the forum on Monday April 15th at 6PM at Dino's Pizza on Homestead Avenue,

1) An update was provided on the **Clayton, Ashley & Sunset** neighborhood project.

The closure of Ashley and Sunset Roads has been approved. DPW does not have the estimated \$25,000 available to complete the project this year. Mike McManus is seeking the money in the new budget starting in July rather than doing a temporary closure.

A suggestion was made to close only Sunset first.

2) Middle Schools ballot Question for debt bond exclusion/**Proposition 21/2 override**:

The issue of building two new middle schools was raised and those present spoke in favor and in opposition to this ballot question. Information on this issue is available on the school website. Benefits of the new buildings have been described in many articles and public meetings. My concern remains the affordability for our homeowners and business owners over the 30 year life of a 132M school project.

3) Update on **City Council**

A number of marijuana proposals have been approved. The State Commission has final say for the businesses. Another issue is gas availability in our city for homeowners and businesses. HG&E minutes indicate that as of January they cannot approve gas installations at most businesses due to limited capacity that they are working to improve.

4) Update on **new lights at 91 ramps** near the mall:

Mass DOT is in charge. A recent update indicates they are working properly according to Mass DOT. However, traffic is backing up and the light to enter the ramp is red when the light to proceed straight is red and when the left light is green. This is leading to backups at both ramps. Drivers are treating the red light like a right on red turn. Bob Peirent, City Engineer is in communication with Mass DOT on this.

New Issues: Bus drop off and busses cutting through Kane and Vermont Streets. A question was raised as to the route for the busses. An attendee said he would share the contact info for Anthony Soto who is in charge of this. Contact info will be shared to the Forum list when received.

Requests **for pot hole repair** and road re-paving:

Re-Pave+ Village Road and the Southampton end of Rock Valley Rd.

Pot holes: Evergreen, Southampton Rd.

A question was raised about dumping at the old shooting range on Southampton Rd, will follow up with DPW.

A question was raised about **the transformer on Pheasant Drive**. Will follow up with HG &E

Thanks for your interest, ideas and participation!

Submitted by Linda Vacon,

Your Ward 5 City Councilor

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