

City of Northampton, MA
Transportation and Parking Commission

December 16, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Katherine Bayeur

1. DPW Director Donna LaScaleia called the meeting to order and announced that there would be audio/visual recording of this virtual meeting.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director, Chair	X	
John Cartledge, Chief of Police, Vice Chair	X	
Carolyn Misch, Director of Planning and Sustainability	X	
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement Administrator	X	
Alex Jarrett, City Councilor, Ward 5	X	
Deborah Klemer, City Councilor, Ward 2	X	
Randy Sailer, Citizen	X	Arrived at 4:12 p.m.
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	
Diana Day Foskett, Citizen	X	
Debin Bruce, Citizen	X	
Advisor	Present	
Maggie Chan, DPW Traffic Engineer	X	
Staff	Present	
Cyndi Quinn, DPW Administration Manager	X	
Katherine Bayeur, Principal Account Clerk	X	

2. **Public Comment**

- Alex Bowman of Market St. spoke about bike lanes and the rail trail not being treated or plowed during the winter making it so they are not usable.

3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s): November 18, 2025**

- A motion was proposed and seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To approve minutes from the November 18, 2025 meeting	Debin Bruce	Councilor Deb Klemer	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

4. Reports from departments and subcommittees/announcements/presentations

- Department of Public Works (DPW) – Director Donna LaScaleia
 - a. All contractors have demobilized for the winter and work will resume in the spring, this work includes the sidewalk project on North Elm St. and Bedford Terrace, and punch list items on the Mill and Overlay Project.
- Director of Planning and Sustainability – Carolyn Misch
 - a. The contractor for the Rocky Hill Greenway project has stopped work for the winter and will resume in the spring.
 - b. The project involving building a pedestrian path from the new parking lot at Broad Brook Greenway to Cooke Ave has been opened for bids and will close in mid-January.

5. Matters before the Commission

- **Discussion about the proposed Old Wilson Rd. Stream Restoration**
 - a. Director Donna LaScaleia – The culvert on Old Wilson Rd. has failed and the road has been closed with jersey barriers installed to keep vehicles off of the road. The structural integrity is compromised to the point that it is not safe to reopen the roadway. This discussion is about devising a plan to restore the stream channel and remove the culvert permanently.
 - b. Carolyn Misch – The city acquired the Pinegrove Golf Course and, with a grant from the Department of Ecological Resources, has been working on a project to restore the manipulated landscape by rewilding, including planting trees, and putting holes in the old fairways/greens to facilitate natural rewilding. Part of this project was considering reopening the stream and what that would look like while also considering how weather events would impact the aging infrastructure of the culvert. Data was collected about the number of vehicles using Old Wilson Rd. as a cut through and there was a meeting held for residents in the area to give feedback on the removing the culvert and letting the stream flow naturally again. There was some concern about emergency vehicle access, but the majority of resident were in favor of it. The proposed plan is to add parking/turnaround areas on either end and adding a pedestrian and bicycle crossing, but there would no longer be a vehicle crossing.
 - c. Councilor Alex Jarrett – What are the cost difference between the proposed plan and replacing the culvert or building a bridge?
 - d. Carolyn Misch – The estimated cost for the proposed plan is roughly \$300,000. There was not a cost estimate done for replacing the culvert or building a bridge.

- e. Director LaScaleia – The stream crossing standards are so strict that a replacement would increase the estimated cost by 50-80%
- f. Councilor Jarrett – What is the value? A grant was mentioned, what percentage is paid for by the grant?
- g. Carolyn Misch – The estimated \$300,000 would be paid by the city, but the grant would cover the design, bid docs, and construction admin (meaning they would oversee the contractor). The Division of Ecological Restoration would cover any other restoration work done. This is a low-lying area with wetlands around it, therefore, in order to meet current and future storm water or rainfall events, the size of the structure that would have to be installed would require everything to be elevated causing further costs to consider if replacing the culvert.
- h. Director LaScaleia – This work would all fall under the storm water enterprise and, therefore, would be funded by storm water enterprise, which has a limited budget per year.
- i. Councilor Deb Klemer – There is no traffic impact on the surrounding roads and this seems to be the best, most cost effective way to address this problem.
- j. Debin Bruce – What is the composition of the turnaround area? Will it be stable if it gets flooded? Are there residents you are trying to accommodate near the stream?
- k. Carolyn Misch- It will be paved. The location is higher up and out the wetland so it should not be affected by flooding. The residents in the area are relatively far away from the crossing.
- l. Jami Albro-Fisher – Are the affected residents on board with this idea?
- m. There is one resident who would prefer the culvert is re-built or a bridge is built, but most residents are in favor of this plan and have offered positive feedback.
- n. Members of the public offered comments: Bryan Adams of Old Wilson Rd. and Jan and Harry Becker of Old Wilson Rd. The residents spoke about beaver dams in the area, which could cause flooding, wheelchair accessibility for the pedestrian crossing, and asked about the number of parking spaces that will be in the parking lots.

6. New Business

- None.

7. Adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

- A motion was proposed and seconded and a roll call was taken. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn.	Jami Albro-Fisher	Debin Bruce	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

