



City Council

Sus & Env Meeting

~Final~

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>

Councilor Zaida Govan (Chair)

September 26,
2025

2:30 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Call To Order

2:30 PM Meeting called to order on Friday, September 26, 2025, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Roll Call

In Person: Councilor Govan, Jay Latorre, Laura Walsh, Peter Garvey, Peter Krupczak, Angel Rios, Priya Suarez, Jose Soto, Jorge Perez

Zoom: Heather Cahillane, Director of TJO, Councilor Davila

Public Portion

1. Discussion of clean-up at the 5-mile pond.

Minutes

Overview

The Environmental and Sustainability Committee met to discuss the condition, cleanup, and future improvements of Five Mile Pond Park. Although the park has been closed for several years, it remains accessible and continues to experience ongoing safety, maintenance, and unauthorized access issues. The discussion focused on immediate cleanup needs, public safety concerns, funding sources, and long-term plans outlined in the City's 2022–2027 recreational plan.

Key Discussion Points

- **Park Condition and Safety:** Members noted persistent trash, unauthorized encampments, a fallen tree, damaged fencing, and insufficient signage indicating the park

is closed. Unauthorized access remains a concern due to safety and liability issues.

- **Cleanup and Maintenance:** Recent cleanup efforts were acknowledged, but regular, ongoing maintenance was identified as necessary until the park can fully reopen.
- **Funding and Capital Improvements:** The Parks Department reported that ARPA funding has been allocated to Five Mile Pond, including approximately \$250,000 for a fishing area and additional funds for other improvements. Renovation of the bathhouse was identified as a priority before considering swimming access, due to both facility conditions and lifeguard staffing challenges. Additional funding opportunities through CPA, PARC, and Land and Water Conservation grants were discussed for later phases.
- **Timeline:** Phase 1 construction is anticipated to begin in the spring. The fishing area is tentatively planned to reopen in fall 2026, while the beach area will remain closed until bathhouse renovations and staffing needs are resolved.
- **Community Engagement:** The formation of a Boston Road Neighborhood Council was discussed to represent community needs better, support advocacy for improvements, and organize cleanups.
- **Staffing and Operations:** Ongoing challenges with recruiting lifeguards and maintaining adequate staffing levels were discussed as a key reason for the park's continued closure.

Next Steps

- Pete Krupczak to commit to regular cleanup of Five Mile Pond while the park remains closed.
- Pete Krupczak is to ensure sufficient signage indicating the park is closed and to follow up with the Police Department regarding police presence.
- The City Parks Department is to begin Phase 1 construction in the spring.
- Laura Walsh to pursue additional funding through CPA, PARC, and Land and Water Conservation grants for Phase 2 renovations.
- Angel Rios is to work on establishing a Boston Road Neighborhood Council and organizing future community cleanups.
- Heather Cahillane is to provide volunteers for future Five Mile Pond cleanups.
- Jay Lattorre to assist Angel Rios with guidance on forming a neighborhood council.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]