

Watertown City Council
Committee on Public Works
Councilor Piccirilli-Chair, Councilor Feltner-Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba- Secretary
Committee Report of August 26, 2025 Meeting
Presented to the City Council on September 9, 2025

The Committee on Public Works met on Tuesday, August 26 in the City Council Office to interview candidates for appointment to the Stormwater Advisory Committee and interview candidates for appointment to the Memorialization Committee. Present at the meeting were Councilor Piccirilli, Committee Chair, Councilor Feltner, Committee Vice Chair, and Councilor Palomba, Committee Secretary. The meeting began at 5:30 PM.

Interview with Ms. Nancy Hammett for Reappointment to the Stormwater Advisory Committee

The first candidate the Committee interviewed was Ms. Nancy Hammett. Ms. Hammett had previously served on the Stormwater Advisory Committee from 2012 - 2015. She played a significant role in the formulation of the City's Stormwater Ordinance. She has also served on the City's Conservation Commission from 2002 to 2008. She is presently a Board member of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance.

Ms. Hammett is interested in continuing to serve on the Stormwater Advisory Committee because of her concern about climate change particularly as it relates to possible flooding and about the requirements of federal legislation regulating the reduction of phosphorus in the Charles River. She appreciates the present and past work of the Committee but believes the Committee can increase its efforts to educate residents about the dangers of stormwater discharge and how they can contribute to preventing it. She would advocate for more public engagement including presentations at the meetings of Watertown community and business organizations and develop ongoing collaborations with these organizations. She feels the Committee should reach out to statewide and regional organizations to gathering information and resources that they can be shared with the city staff. Related to this idea, she would like to see the city staff view the Committee as a reliable source of support.

Councilor Feltner made the following motion:

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the reappointment of Nancy Hammett as a member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee to a term expiring July 15, 2027.

Councilor Palomba seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

Interview with Ms. Lilia Moscalu for Appointment to the Stormwater Advisory Committee

The second candidate the Committee interviewed was Ms. Lilia Moscalu. Ms. Moscalu moved to Watertown in 2020 and has two children in Watertown public schools. She wants to be more active in the community and make a contribution to Watertown. She has a strong interest in biology and ecology. As someone who lives next to the Charles River, she is particularly concerned about protecting the river. She has attended two previous Committee meetings and will be volunteering at the Committee's table at the Faire on the Square. She hopes to participate in efforts to educate the public about the role of the Committee and how residents can be involved.

Councilor Feltner made the following motion:

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the appointment of Lilia Moscalu as a member of the Stormwater Advisory Committee to a term expiring July 15, 2027.

Councilor Palomba seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

The scheduled interview of Ms. Ani Aroyian for appointment to the Memorialization Committee was canceled due to an unforeseen accident that made it impossible for Ms. Aroyian to be present.

Interview of Ms. Ellen Trudel to the Memorialization Committee

The third candidate interviewed by the Committee was Ms. Ellen Trudel. Ms. Trudel has been a resident of Watertown for nine years and has extensive experience in the fields of public policy, public affairs, and government relations. She has attended the Civic Academy and wants to become more active in Watertown. She was drawn to the Memorialization Committee after reading about the call for naming recommendations for our new high school.

When asked what would be her contributions to the Committee, Ms. Trudel explained that one of her strengths is the ability to appreciate varying ideas, find points of consensus, and propose next steps. She also believes her experience at Harvard University working on two de-naming requests will be helpful. She understands that serving on the Committee will require a considerable commitment of time and energy, particularly in the early stages.

Ms. Trudel recognizes that the Memorialization Committee is a new committee and will pose challenges for its members, particularly the need to create policies and procedures that can be applied when reviewing naming requests that can be quite varied. She feels it is important to consider the diversity of values and ideas in our community when creating these policies and procedures. She recognizes that balancing the desires of a resident(s) who makes a naming request with the considerations of other residents can be very challenging. However, she also sees the naming process as a wonderful opportunity for community learning and engagement.

Councilor Feltner made the following motion:

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the appointment of Ellen Trudel as a member of the Memorialization Committee to a term expiring September 15, 2027.

Councilor Palomba seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

Councilor Feltner made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Palomba and passed 3-0. The meeting ended at 7:05 PM. The minutes were prepared by Councilor Palomba.