



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
*MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT*  
**JACOB D. WILSON**  
**MAYOR**

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Urban Forestry Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 07, 2026**  
**MINUTES**

**Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025, this meeting was held remotely**

*Meeting notes prepared by Vanessa Boukili*

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Leah Grossman, Joelle Renstrom, Luca Choly, Marion Davis, Michael Hendrix, Suzanne Warner, Vanessa Boukili, Tori Antonino (joined at 5:52 pm)

**Associate Members Present:** Allison Bernard

**Committee Members Absent:** David Jackson, 2 vacant positions

**Others in Attendance:** Anne Ryan, Steve Wells

**Call to Order:** Hendrix called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

**1. Introductions / Housekeeping**

- a. Committee members introduced themselves
- b. This is Grossman's last meeting

**2. 90 Washington Street Memo Review**

- a. Washington Street subcommittee (Warner, Davis, Antonino, Bernard) drafted a memo for review. Warner read draft to the full Committee.
- b. Committee discussed various edits to the letter, including who the letter was addressed to (SRA and City Council), links to citations, recommendations to the review committee.
- c. Committee determined additional groups to CC, including the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, the Conservation Committee, and Mayor Wilson.
- d. Boukili shared a link to the website: <https://www.somervillema.gov/90-washington-redevelopment>

**Roll call vote to approve the 90 Washington Street Memo as amended**

(motion – Warner, second, – Davis)

- a. Yay: Grossman, Choly, Renstrom, Antonio, Davis, Warner, Hendrix, Boukili
- b. Nay: none
- c. Abstain: none

Motion unanimously approved at 6:27 p.m. (8:0:0).

**3. Ongoing Work Updates**

- a. Arbor Day 2026 – May 8<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Lincoln Park, 3-6pm. Set up to start around 2:45 (Boukili, Grossman, Warner, Renstrom).
  - ii. Picnic style tabling, but we also have 1-2 tables. Boukili and Renstrom to bring picnic blankets.
  - iii. Tree planting, pollinator plan give aways, fun activities.
- b. Somerville’s Most Wanted Weeds
  - i. Grossman presented updated poster. Updated former UFC member Calla Taylor’s poster and replaced some photos. Also changed some names and provided additional guidance, per recommendations from Claire O’Neill from Earthwise Aware. Revised some common names to include descriptors, such as Japanese knotweed. This change was discussed by the committee, and determined to leave the descriptors for clarity’s sake.
  - ii. Added verbiage to poster stating that taxonomic and scientific names are shown.
  - iii. Some images appeared blurry when zoomed in; those photos were updated to higher quality images.

**Roll call vote to approve provisionally approve Somerville Most Wanted Weeds poster to print for Arbor Day** (motion – Boukili, second, – Antonino)

- a. Yay: Boukili, Grossman, Hendrix, Warner, Davis, Choly, Renstrom, Antonino
- b. Nay: none
- c. Abstain: none

Motion unanimously approved at 6:46 p.m. (8:0:0).

**2. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m. (Motion – Boukili, second – Warner)