

ESNA - February 12, 2019 - Meeting Notes

State Representative Mr. Aaron Michlewitz

- Aaron Michlewitz provided an overview of his legislative proposals (see below):

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Legislative Proposals for 2019-2020 Session

1. Re-Precincting

- After every census cities & towns are required to assess the boundaries of wards and precincts.
- Boston has been exempt from this since 1921. This bill will end that exemption

2. Traffic Violations

- Increase traffic violation fines for vehicles that block intersections or impede access to crosswalks.

3. Commercial Wharf

- Would grant residents of Commercial Wharf protections from being eviction.
- Legislation would codify current status quo at Commercial Wharf.

4. Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing

- Would regulate new peer to peer car sharing companies (Turo, GetAround, etc.) where people rent their cars directly to other people.
- Would also place a \$1/day fee on these rentals that would go towards MBTA
- Bill would also exempt Boston and Cambridge residents from paying traditional car rental fee of \$10/day that goes towards Convention Center.

5. Gender nonspecific option for Financial Aid forms

- Would have State schools allow individuals to check a gender non-specific box when filling out financial aid forms.

6. Multilingual absentee ballots and transliteration

- Would allow expanded access to bilingual ballots for Chinese and Vietnamese-Americans both at the ballot box and through the absentee ballot process.

7. Domestic Abuse/Gun Legislation

- Allows police to search premises for weapons when they are called to the scene of a domestic violence disturbance and seize them if weapon would threaten the safety of the victim.

8. Credit Union Modernization

- Update the State's laws to even make Credit Unions more competitive with banks so they can better serve customers.

9. Autonomous Vehicles

- Would mandate that autonomous vehicles that carry 8 or more passengers or are participating in interstate commerce must have a human operator is present in the vehicle.
- This is a developing technology and it's important not to lose sight of the public's safety as more and more autonomous vehicles hit the road.

Mr. Ed Allan

- Ed Allan shared his research into the history of 32 Milford Street, as well as a guideline on how all neighbors can conduct research into their own properties. His presentation is posted here: <http://www.eightstreets.org>

Mrs. Danya Kazakavich - Blackstone School

- Blackstone has a \$500K shortfall and will organize a fundraiser at Stella (Washington Street) on May 7th, 2019. In 2018 the fundraiser raised \$23K

Other Neighborhood Updates

- Berkeley Community Gardens: John McLachlan said that the gates would be open again in the spring.
- Peters Park: Bernard Petersen confirmed a \$2.5K sponsorship from Capital One. John Delano said that \$150K has been awarded by the CPA, over and above the original budget of \$350K. The Friends are looking to replace all trash barrels with covered lids.
- Ringgold Park: The trash barrel at the Waltham entrance will be removed to help mitigate trash and rat issues, and the Friends have asked the Parks Dept. to replace the other barrels with closed lids.
- Watson Park: Linda Reisert said the tree trimming was completed in January 2019 and that an application would be made to the CPA for funding. Colleen Fitzpatrick said that a fundraiser would take place in the spring.

Next ESNA meeting is March 12, 2019