



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Rules & Ordinance Committee

Councillor Linehan, Chair
Councillor Crowe, Vice-Chair
Councillor O'Malley
Councillor Sica
Councillor Simonelli

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

6:00 PM

215 Pleasant Street
Room 108
Malden, MA 02148

Roll Call

Chair Linehan called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.
Council President Winslow sat in to make a quorum until Councillor O'Malley arrived at 6:10. Councillors Simonelli and Crowe arrived shortly thereafter.

Also in attendance was Director Chris Webb, Councillor McDonald, Zaheer Samee, and Lillyana Mayo.

Present: 5 - Councillor Amanda Linehan, Councillor Peg Crowe, Ryan O'Malley, Jadeane Sica and Chris Simonelli

Minutes to be Approved

[219-24](#)

Minutes for the meeting of February 20, 2024

A motion was made by Councillor Sica, seconded by Winslow, that the Committee Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

179-24

Order: That the Council's Rules and Ordinance Committee, in collaboration with the Board of Health and Health Director, update MCC 09.04.010A related to standing water so as to protect and allow for the use of rain barrels, exempting them from the nuisance category of our municipal health code under the final discretion of the City Health Director.

Sponsors: Amanda Linehan and Carey McDonald

Paper 179-24 was introduced into the record by Chair Linehan and then the discussion on rain barrels and pollinator gardens was handed over to BOH Director Chris Webb. Director Webb explained the minimum requirements to meet the definition of a rain barrel is that it have a spout in/spout out, mesh screen, and the sole purpose of collecting and storing rainwater. Also, residents who keep rain barrels should be made aware that the water they collect is not drinkable unless a proper filtration system is in use because there may be residuals from the roof and gutters in the water. Any ordinance speaking to the proper use of rain barrels should include direction that additives, fertilizers, organic or otherwise, should not be pre-added to the barrel.

Director Webb's biggest concern with rain barrels is a scenario where someone has multiple buckets across their property with no lid—this is the breeding grounds for mosquitoes and the West Nile Delta Virus, something previously found in the city. While we want to push for a Green Malden, we also want to people utilizing the tools properly.

There are not many cities/towns in Massachusetts with a specific pollinator ordinances in place but there is guidance from the National Wildlife Federation with a policy guide for cities and towns that says you can either cap the height of all plants or ask people to register their gardens with natural organizations and then showcase the certification.

Director Webb heard out Councillors' questions and concerns and agreed to come back to the next meeting with language for further review. The size of barrels may not exceed 10'x10' since that would require a building permit. Pollinator gardens must have some type of definition or standard so people aren't just using it as a way to justify unkempt and overgrown landscaping.

A motion was made by Councillor Simonelli, seconded by Councillor Sica, that the Order be tabled. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor O'Malley, seconded by Councillor Simonelli, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.