

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, September 20, 2001
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Hanson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

City Councilor Alex Hanson, Chairman	Herb Bunnell, Member
John Burke, Public Works Dept.	Ralph DiBernardo, Member
Fire Chief Rick Plummer	Ted Gray, Member
Deputy Police Chief Mike Magnant, Police Dept.	Patrick Harrigan, Member
Ronald Cypher, Member	

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee (TSC) meeting of August 16, 2001. Seconded by Patrick Harrigan. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) **Winchester Street – Speeding Concerns** – Alex Hanson referred to resident letter that thanked the Committee for Speed Limit and Slow Children Playing signs. The resident is concerned that people are routinely speeding on Winchester Street.

MOTION made by Chief Plummer to refer this matter to the Police Department. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion Passed.

(B) **Bartlett Street Traffic & Safety Concerns** – Alex Hanson stated that speeds have been a concern here in the past. He suggested that the Police Department’s STEP Program be used in the coming weeks.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to refer this matter to the Police Department for enforcement. Seconded by Patrick Harrigan. Motion Passed.

(C) **Route 1/Dunkin Donuts Driveway – Request for Traffic Signal** – John Burke stated that it is NHDOT’s decision whether or not to install a signal on U.S. Route 1. Alex Hanson suggested that if NHDOT finds that warrants are not met for a traffic signal, the Committee consider installing

a “no left turn” condition - perhaps using a pork chop island. Alex asked John Burke for a report back once NHDOT completes its review.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to refer to John Burke for a report back. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Gosling Meadows Sign Requests – Portsmouth Housing Authority -** Alex Hanson reported that the Committee met with the Housing Authority staff onsite regarding the need for some NO PARKING signs. He stated that the Housing Authority will decide whether a crosswalk is needed on Winsor Road. He added that NO PARKING signs are needed on the east side of Winsor Road and on the west side 40 feet back from the corner so that school buses can get around the corner.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to post NO PARKING signs on the east side of Winsor Road and a NO PARKING HERE-TO-CORNER sign on the west side. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Loud Exhaust Sign Request – Portsmouth Police Department referral** – Deputy Police Chief Michael Magnant received a request from the Police Commission to bring to the Traffic & Safety Committee for discussion the possibility of placing signs in the residential and downtown areas basically saying “loud exhaust-strictly enforced”, City Ordinance 7.0034. Alex Hanson asked John Burke if it would be appropriate to put signage at the entrances to the City (Rte 1, Rte 33, Market Street, etc.). This way, no one can say that they were not served notice before being stopped. Deputy Chief Magnant will get a prototype and contact John Burke as to the sign text.

MOTION made by Fire Chief Plummer to refer the manufacture and posting of the Loud Exhaust Warning signs to Deputy Police Chief Magnant and John Burke with direction that they should be posted at the entrances to the City. Seconded by Patrick Harrigan. Motion passed.

- (C) **Proposed Truck Loading Zone – State St./Pleasant St. & Congress St. @ Vaughan Walking Mall** - Deputy Police Chief Magnant reported the need to increase the supply of loading and unloading zones for trucks. It is proposed to create a truck loading zone on State Street north of its intersection with Pleasant Street adjacent to the Rusty Hammer Restaurant and opposite Marple & James. This is where delivery trucks routinely double park. The time restriction would be 15 minutes. Deputy Police Chief Magnant stated that a second area on Congress St. needs a truck loading zone just west of Fleet Street.

MOTION made by Deputy Police Chief Magnant to recommend the installation of 15-minute truck loading zones on State Street just north of Pleasant Street adjacent to the Rusty Hammer Restaurant and across the street from Marple & James; and one on Congress Street just west of Fleet Street. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

- (D) **Lincoln Ave./Broad St. & Willow Lane – Proposed 4-way Stops** – Alex Hanson referred to the resident request for a 4-way stop at Lincoln & Broad Street and Lincoln and Willow Lane. He noted that a 4-way stop condition was not warranted at Willow Lane.

MOTION made by Patrick Harrigan for a 4-way Stop at Lincoln and Broad Streets. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion Passed. Deputy Chief Mike Magnant and Ralph DiBernardo opposed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Tucker’s Cove** – Chuck Drew, resident of Tucker’s Cove is concerned that there is a tremendous amount of fast moving traffic using the newly opened roadway. Many people are using it as a cut-through to avoid the Foy’s Corner intersection. He would like a stop sign posted at Odiorne and Gosport Road, child safety signs on both sides of Sagamore and Elwyn Roads as well as speed limit signs. Alex Hanson stated that they would go ahead with the 20 MPH speed limit signs and “Slow children playing” signs but the stop sign request would be placed on the on-site for the next meeting. Alex Hanson stated that the neighbor’s petition would be entered into the record.

MOTION made by Chief Plummer to post a 20 MPH speed limit sign and “Slow children playing” at both entrances to Tucker’s Cove. Seconded by Patrick Harrigan. Motion passed.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to refer the request for a stop sign at the intersection of Odiorne and Gosport Road to on-site for the next meeting. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

Herb Bunnell stated that there seems to be no end in sight to the amount of signs that are posted in the City. He is concerned with sign pollution. Concern was also raised with the number of STOP signs being posted to control speeds. John Burke recommended that before the Committee adopts any future 3-way or 4-way stops that a study of sign warrants be conducted by the Police Department and the Parking and Transportation Division. Specifically, traffic and speed counts will be done, an accident history documented, and a field review of geometrics and sight distance completed. Alex Hanson suggested a check off list be put together before the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to adjourn. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: _____