

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, June 20, 2002
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Hanson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:10 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Asst. Mayor Alex Hanson, Chairman	Ron Cypher, Member
Everett Kern, Public Works Dept.	Ted Gray, Member
Police Chief Brad Russ	Herb Bunnell, Member
Acting Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	Hank Greenberg, Member
John Burke, Parking & Transportation	

Also present were Lucy Tillman and David Holden of the Planning Department.

Ralph DiBernardo was excused from this meeting.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee (TSC) meeting of May 16, 2002. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (A) **Rt. 1/Patriot's Park Driveway – Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis** – Letter received from NHDOT stating that the intersection does not meet warrants for signal installation.

MOTION by Ted Gray to accept and place letter on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) **13 Market Street – Proposed store event by G. Willikers** – Jodi Breneman of G. Willikers was present. Chairman Alex Hanson explained that the Committee's concern is for the children loading and unloading the bus on the street side. He suggested that Ms. Breneman coordinate with the Police Department and have the bus park in front of G. Willikers so that children can load and unload from the sidewalk.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to recommend that Jodi Breneman of G. Willikers work with the Police Chief on bus loading as discussed and submit a Certificate of Insurance naming the City as an “additional insured”. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (C) **High Street Traffic Concerns** – John Burke met with Cuzin Richard who is concerned that people turning out of the Parade Mall parking lot go the wrong way on High Street. John stated that the appropriate “One Way” and “Do Not Enter” signage is already in place. He suggested that people may be purposely turning the wrong way out of the lot to reach Hanover Street. However, he will post an additional “One Way” sign on lower High Street by Deer Street across from the commercial parking lot. This matter has already been discussed with the Police Department.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to refer to the Police Department for enforcement. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) **Porter Street – Proposed Residential Development** – Eric Weinrieb of Altus Engineering was present representing the 325 State Street Development. The Traffic & Safety Committee formed a subcommittee to meet with the developer and engineer to find a reasonable solution to the Committee’s concerns stated at the previous meeting. The plans have been modified to provide approximately 20 feet of roadway with a proposed 7-foot of sidewalk and no landscaping with the exception of 11 trees.

Alex Hanson asked what they were doing with the overhead utilities. Eric Weinrieb stated that the utilities will be underground for these units. The utilities on Porter Street will not be underground as the developer will be utilizing existing poles for service.

Ted Gray asked if a pole was going to be removed from intersection of Porter Street. Eric responded that at this time there is no changes to the above ground utilities. The applicant will only be using a drop from the existing utility poles going underground to serve the site. Telephones are already underground.

Police Chief Brad Russ asked about the need for “No Parking” signs. Alex Hanson suggested signs be posted at the private drive entrances so that the Fire Dept. can get through.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept the revised plans of the subcommittee with the addition of posted signs stating “No Parking Fire Lane”. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) **Truck Size & Weight on NH Interstate Highways** – Chairman Alex Hanson stated that the City Council referred the proposed resolution, which opposes bigger and longer trucks being allowed on the interstates, to the Traffic & Safety Committee. John Burke added that a particular concern noted was a proposal to allow triple tandem trailers on the interstate highways.

MOTION made by Police Chief Brad Russ to recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed resolution. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed. Ted Gray abstained.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **430 West Road – Proposed Professional Offices/Manufacturing/Warehouse** – Attorney Bernie Pelech referred the site plan presentation to Dennis Moulton of Millette, Sprague & Colwell, Inc. Dennis prepared site plans for the proposed development as well as modifications to the porkchop island at the intersection of Lafayette and West Road. The modifications were discussed at Tuesday’s on-site meeting of the Traffic & Safety Committee. The proposed modifications to the island will increase the size of the island to better prevent people from making a left turn onto Lafayette Road. The other issue the Board wished to discuss was the stipulation that there would be agreement by the applicant that the existing paths to Water County be blocked off to prevent such access. Alex Hanson stated that any modifications to the island should not hinder access to the dumpsters, which have to be emptied. It was proposed that a “No Left Turn” sign be posted as you approach the intersection.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept the plan as presented with the stipulation that the porkchop island be modified as approved by the City Engineer with appropriate signage. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) **Chapel Street/St. John’s – Speed and Related Concerns** – Ted Gray referred to the on-site review stating that the striping should be modified to move vehicles away from the entrance to the church as they crest the hill on Chapel St. It was also suggested that the church utilize the mobile pedestrian warning sign that was provided by the Public Works Department and place the sign on Chapel Street during church services.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to accept the on-site report and recommendations. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion passed.

- (C) **State Street/Chapel Street–Corner Parking/Sight Distance Concerns** – Police Chief Brad Russ stated that people are parking in proximity to the intersection in an area clearly not designated as a parking space. He

believes this will continue to be a problem until a loading zone is provided for people who service the restaurants especially on the lower end of State Street. Alex Hanson responded that there is consideration for designating a loading zone on State Street just north of Chapel Street where it would not hinder sight distance. It was suggested the corner of Chapel and State be posted a Tow Zone. John Burke stated that this would likely require three readings of the City Council. He added that simply providing corner clearances is provided by state statute. Chairman Hanson suggested posting the “No Parking Here to Corner” and then going through the reading process to designate it a Tow Zone. Police Chief Brad Russ stated that it is very difficult for police officers to tow or tag trucks that are actively loading or unloading until the language is cleaned up in the Ordinance on loading zones. John Burke stated that the Parking Committee has recommended implementation of the loading zones for a one-year trial period with the Ordinance developed at the end of the trial period.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept on-site report. Seconded by Hank Greenberg. Motion passed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) A Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting will not be held in July unless otherwise notified.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____