

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, September 19, 2002
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.	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ralph DiBernardo, Member
Deputy Police Chief Mike Magnant	Hank Greenberg, Member
	Ron Cypher, Member

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 August 15, 2002. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Washington St./Hancock St. Area – Review of corner clearances – John Burke stated that “No Parking Here to Corner” signs will be replaced at the following locations: Hancock/Gates, Hancock/Washington, Hancock/ Pleasant, and Pleasant/Washington Streets.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to approve the re-posting of corner clearance signs as recommended by John Burke. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion Passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) 2236 Lafayette Road – Proposed commercial building and associated site improvements – Eric Weinberg of Altus Engineering spoke on behalf of Bluestone Properties. He explained that the proposed 4,828 s.f. one story building will be used as a take-out style restaurant, with other commercial and retail uses in the building. The applicant will provide a 12-foot easement to the State for the purpose of a future widening of Route 1. Ted Gray referred to the onsite committee review and stated his concern about sight distance and that the driveway needed to be aligned with the used car dealership. He recommended that the driveway be aligned and that a porkchop with NO LEFT TURN signage be installed to deal with the deficient sight distance issue.

MOTION made by Ted Gray recommending acceptance of the plan pending approval from the state, with the stipulation that the driveway be aligned with the driveway across Route 1, that a porkchop be installed with appropriate signage allowing only right turns out, and that John Burke approve the submitted site distance plan. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

- (B) **133 Islington Street – Proposed Residential Units/Parking Garage and Associated Site Improvements** – John Chagnon of Ambit Engineering representing the 133 Islington Street project presented the project to continue use of the former Knights of Columbus Hall for commercial space and to construct residential units and a parking structure. Mr. Chagnon stated that concern was expressed from the neighborhood at the TAC Meeting that there is not much on-street parking in the area. Even though the applicant has met the City's requirement for parking under the Zoning Ordinance, the TAC had requested that a parking study be done to determine if on-street parking was available for overflow use of the proposed facility. Chairman Alex Hanson asked how many cars does the applicant anticipate. Mr. Chagnon stated that it was a mixed-use building. The development is projected to use up to 7 more spaces than the 11 covered parking spaces provided. Mr. Chagnon did an all day survey of parking spaces within a 300-foot radius of the site and determined that there was ample parking in the vicinity. The study has been submitted to the Committee.

Ralph DiBernardo stated that he was concerned with the results of the study. He stated that he had observed parking on a Sunday and found no parking spaces available in the area.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to approve the project as submitted. Ted Gray Seconded. Motion passed (6-2). Motion opposed by Ralph DiBernardo and Hank Greenberg.

- (C) **96-98 State Street – Proposed Restaurant and Associated Site Improvements** – John Chagnon, Ambit Survey, representing the applicant, explained that the State Street proposal is to construct a 2-story addition on the back of the existing building to include a kitchen for restaurant use. The applicant has proposed to replace the existing asphalt sidewalks with brick sidewalks. At TAC, there was concern expressed that truck loading was a problem on Atkinson Street, which is a narrow 2-way street with no on-street parking allowed. After meeting with members of the Committee it was agreed that a loading zone should be created on State Street to serve the new restaurant and Rosa's Restaurant. The applicant pledged that they will instruct everyone who delivers to the restaurant to use this loading zone.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to create a loading zone in the first parking place on State Street to the east of Atkinson Street and to approve the plans with the stipulation that the applicant replace the hot top sidewalk adjacent to his property with brick at his expense. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

The owner stated that he intended to open the restaurant the first of May.

- (D) **Tanner Court – Onstreet Parking Complaints** – Steve Parkinson stated that the issue on Tanner Court is that people are parking across from the driveway such that the occupant cannot back out of his driveway. Steve proposed to place “no parking between signs” signs on the opposite side of the street from the driveway to help the situation.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place “No Parking Between Signs” signs on the opposite side of the Street. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

- (E) **Langdon Street – Onstreet Parking Complaints** – Steve Parkinson stated that the Langdon Street complaint deals with the same situation where people park across from the driveway making it difficult to get in and out of the driveway. He proposed the same solution as for Tanner Court.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to put up signs reading “No Parking Between signs” on the opposite side of the street. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

- (F) **Coffins Court – Corner Clearance Concerns at Union & Cabot Street Intersections** – Ron Cypher referred to the on-site review. He stated that he went back with a tape and measured the distance of the width of Coffins Court. On the Cabot Street side it is 11’ 10” and on the Union Street side it is 10’ 2’ with an added obstruction of paper box attached to a fence.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to stripe both curb ends on Union Street back 6’ to provide adequate corner clearance. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion Passed.

Steve Parkinson stated the biggest concern is people coming in and out at the very end of the street when cars are parked right up to it. If we move them back at least 6 feet it will get the cars back away from the entrance giving a little bit more of a swing to get in there and hopefully correct the situation or improve it without having to eliminate parking.

- (G) **Marcy Street – Onstreet Parking Complaints** – John Burke requested this be referred to on-site.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to refer to on-site. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (H) **Market Street – Posted Speeds in Vicinity of Nobles Island** – Speed limit signs change from 35 mph on Market Street Extension to 15 mph on Market Street inbound of Russell Street. Steve Parkinson suggested that prior to the intersection at Nobles Island a sign be posted “Reduced Speed Zone Ahead”. At the signalized intersection we then reduce down to 25 MPH. Near Russell Street we would post another sign “Reduced Speed Zone Ahead” and then go to 15-MPH at Deer Street. This will give people advance warning in sufficient distance that speed limits are changing.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to create a 25-mph speed limit zone on Market Street between Nobles Island and Deer Street and a 15-mph speed limit zone from Deer Street to Daniel Street. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

- (I) **Highland/Merrimack –Corner Clearance Concerns** – John Burke reviewed the location. He stated that there is multi-family housing at the corner and people parked all the way around the corner. Proper corner clearance signs will be posted.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to post NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER signs 20 feet on either side of the intersection. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Magnant. Motion Passed.

- (J) **Lincoln/Richards Ave. - Corner Clearance Concerns** – John Burke informed the Committee that there have been contractors parking on the corner recently. He stated that there is a No Parking sign missing on Lincoln that will be reposted.

- (K) **1895 Building** - Alex Hanson stated that the onsite review committee walked around the 1895 Building at the Municipal Complex. He noted that there is a

requirement for 20 parking spaces for the new senior housing project and that it will be repaved. He recommended that the jurisdiction for these requirements be given over to the Traffic & Safety Engineer.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to approve and give the jurisdiction of striping the spaces over to the Traffic & Safety Engineer. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas