

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, December 19, 2002
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Hanson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

John Burke, Public Works Dept.	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Police Captain Dave Young	Herb Bunnell, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	Hank Greenberg, Member
Ralph DiBernardo, Member	

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ralph DiBernardo to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee (TSC) meeting of November 21, 2002. Seconded by Steve Parkinson.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) **Portsmouth Middle School Improvements – Proposed Parking & Circulation Plan** – John Burke reported that the middle school parking lot was reviewed as part of the library project. It was immediately apparent that the lot suffered from some obvious safety deficiencies. Specifically, most of the parking lot does not meet requirements of the City’s Parking Ordinance with respect to aisle widths. Sight distance is also a problem with numerous obstructions in the lot including dumpsters and bleachers. Student access between the school and ball fields is hazardous as is the parent/student pick-up periods in the afternoon when cars mix with buses at the school’s entrance. The intent of the proposed improvement is to provide wider aisle widths by shifting the existing ball field fence 5-feet and providing standard parking bays; move sight obstructions out of the lot and provide clear definition of the student walkway between the schools and the fields. Further, the two-way driveway behind the school should be made one-way to bring the existing parking in back of the school into conformance with the City’s Parking Ordinance.

The idea was also to provide teachers and staff a more convenient parking within closer proximity to the school than where they are parking today.

25 – 30 teachers now park on Parrott Avenue daily. By increasing the parking they will be able to go back into the lot in most cases closer to the school. A proposed shared lot parking agreement with the Middle Street Baptist Church is also proposed to allow teachers additional off-street parking. The bus traffic and parent pickup/drop-off traffic will be separated by creating a student loading zone on Rogers Street. It is also proposed to physically prevent traffic from using Parrott Ave. for the brief period the buses are unloading and loading students. Currently, cars will occasionally zip by the buses during loading. The plan provides 104 parking spaces to the school given the 102 employees not including visitors. John stated that one of the issues for this Committee is that we are proposing to designate eight onstreet parking spaces on Parrott Ave. for staff parking to the school as well as three visitor parking spaces.

Alex Hanson asked John if spaces designated 94 through 104 on the plan, which would be designated to the school, are currently restricted due to bus loading. John answered yes, but because the school staff would be in the school during times of loading and unloading they would not need to move there vehicles. John noted that the number of spaces provided the school will be monitored to ensure that utilization warrants the supply.

Ralph DiBernardo asked if the assigned designated spaces will be signed so that people can use them during off-school hours. Steve Parkinson stated these spaces will be signed so that during the school day people will understand that they cannot park there, but nights, summers, holidays, etc. parking is available.

Chief LeClaire questioned the number of handicapped spaces. John Burke stated by law we are required to have 3 handicap spaces in the lot. The Chief noted that if the spaces are designated for employees and there are not three disabled employees then the spaces would go unused. It was noted that the spaces would also be for general use.

MOTION by Ralph DiBernardo to accept the plan as presented. Ted Gray seconded. Motion passed.

- (B) 874 State Street – Resident concern regarding onstreet parking.** Ralph DiBernardo referred to the on-site review noting that this section of State Street is very narrow with cars parked on both sides of the street. He noted that the centerline was somewhat off-center, which makes it tighter on one side. He recommended that the double yellow line in the middle of the street be repainted in the spring. He also noted that in the future if there is any resetting of curb, there is a small grass area that could be taken to widen the street.

MOTION by Ralph DiBernardo to repaint centerline in center of street in the spring. Ron Cypher seconded. Motion Passed.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas