

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, July 17, 2003
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Alex Hanson, Chair, Asst. Mayor	Fire Chief Chris LeClaire
John Burke, Dir. Parking & Transportation	Deputy Fire Chief Steve Achilles
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	Ted Gray, Member

Excused absences: Ralph DiBernardo, Hank Greenberg and Herb Bunnell

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of June 19, 2003. Seconded by Ted Gray.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) **Plains Ave./Peverly Hill Rd. – Lights** – John Burke reported back on the operation of the traffic signal. The City will investigate the need for split phasing at the intersection, which would have left-turning Peverly Hill Road and Plains Avenue traffic turning under a protected movement (not together). John stated that the accident records did not reflect anything abnormal, but there is an issue where Peverly Hill Road traffic is not always yielding to Plains Ave. traffic on green. Alex Hanson expressed concern that the intersection already handles a lot of traffic and adding another phase may diminish its ability to do so. John responded that he would report back at the next meeting.

(B) **Plains Ave. Ballfield/Pearson Street** – Ron Cypher stated that on July 1st the subcommittee met at the ballpark with the residents to address concerns expressed at last month's meeting. Ballgame traffic has been parking on Pearson St. and residents were having difficulty exiting their driveways. Cars were also parked on both sides of Plains Ave. We came up with a solution to prohibit parking on both sides of Plains Avenue and on Pearson Street during ballgames. Parking will be allowed in the outfield along right field also. The residents seemed quite pleased with

this and agreed with the solution. John Burke stated that the temporary signage will be replaced with permanent signage today or tomorrow.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to allow parking in the outfield and prohibiting parking on Plains Avenue all the time and on Pearson Street only during ballgames. Motion passed.

- (C) **Route 33 fence** – Steve Parkinson stated that the fence is no longer posted on City property.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Partridge Street – No Parking** – Ted Gray reported on the on-site review. There is no parking allowed on Pray Street for the same reason as the concern stated here. That is, that the road is not wide enough to allow trucks to drive down it with on-street parking allowed. It is therefore recommended that there be no parking allowed at any time.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to prohibit parking at all times on Partridge Street. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion Passed.

- (B) **Mechanic Street/Marcy Street – Fence/sight distance** – Deputy Police Chief Dave Young stated they had received a complaint that the fence at the corner of Mechanic and Marcy Streets was obscuring sight to the intersection. It was looked at and you do have to edge out somewhat onto Marcy Street, but he believes that it is not a major issue. There have been only 2 accidents in the last 4 years. He recommended taking no action and placing the matter on file.

MOTION made by Deputy Police Chief Young to place on file. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (C) **Maplewood Ave./Cutts St.** – Request for 4-Way Stop/Signal – Alex Hanson stated that the policy for this is to refer this to John Burke and the Police Department to check warrants for a 4-way Stop. .

MOTION made by Ted Gray to refer the matter to John Burke and the Police Department to check on traffic control warrants. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (D) **Sheafe Street – Request for 2-way Traffic** – Alex Hanson passed out a memo from the City Attorney stating that it would expose the City to some liability if the road was returned to a 2-way street. It would also make it difficult for city service vehicles.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept the petition and place on file. Deputy Chief Young seconded. Motion passed. Ted Gray Opposed

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Steve Parkinson raised two issues:

1. *Request for Narrow Street Signs* - Referred to resident concern on Mechanic St. and other small side streets in the south end where lots of large trucks are ripping down fences, destroying private property and not being caught. There was a request for posting “narrow street” signs. Steve stated that streets are narrow everywhere in the city and the problem that we would have is the signs would get destroyed themselves. The issue of sign pollution was also discussed.

2. *Sagamore Road/Wentworth Road* - Now that the Wentworth-by-the-Sea is open, there seems to be additional traffic back-ups at the intersection. The City owns one third of the intersection. Alex Hanson suggested that the state be contacted. Steve Parkinson suggested a letter to the state requesting that they examine the need for a signal. He added that when the Wentworth was going through their approvals with the State, they should have looked at this impact.

MOTION made by Fire Chief LeClaire to refer this to the state to be examined by them. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas