

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, March 18, 2004
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
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young
Assist. Fire Chief Steve Achilles

Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman
Herb Bunnell, Member
Ron Cypher, Member
Ted Gray, Member
Jonathan Bailey, Member

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Chairman Alex Hanson welcomed Jonathan Bailey, a new member of the Committee.

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of February 19, 2004. Seconded by Ted Gray. Correction on page 2 (B) Hancock/Marcy Street - Motion by Deputy Chief Young was seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed as amended.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive – Portsmouth High School Expansion – proposed 13,722 s.f. two-story addition - Peter Torrey representing the School Department introduced Forrest Ransdell, Principal of Portsmouth High School and Brad Mezquita of Appledore Engineering. Mr. Mezquita explained the plan and additional parking spaces. Alex Hanson suggested he go over the revisions of the plan that the Committee went over at on-site. Mr. Mezquita gave the Committee a letter outlining the changes. An additional stop sign and stop bar would be placed at the westerly leg of the 3-way intersection with Summit Drive. In addition turning arrows would be applied to pavement indicating direction. “Do not enter” signs placed on end of access drive, will be oversized signs. It was recommended that bituminous curbing be installed to take care of the drainage issue and extending curb on Summit. The proposed speed tables will be removed. Steve Parkinson stated that the bituminous curbing must be granite.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to approve the plan as amended with the stipulated changes. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo. Motion passed.

Ralph DiBernardo stated that the project looks great and the school must be very proud and pleased, but suggested that the school look at the financial aspect of bringing the curbing all the way down the service driveway. People will continue

to park on the grass otherwise. Peter Torrey thanked him for the suggestion and stated that at some point it would make good sense.

Alex Hanson asked Peter how soon the roadway would become a one-way. He noted no later than the conclusion of that part of the project, January 1, 2005. Alex also asked about Andrew Jarvis Drive doing away with the temporary one-way signs. Mr. Ransdell stated that there are times when Andrew Jarvis is temporarily made one-way, from 7:00 am until 7:30 am when school starts and the sign is picked up again. It is not one-way at school closing, as there is not incoming traffic off of Lafayette. The gate on Summit will stay.

John Burke stated that the TAC was concerned with the potential for higher-speed cut-through traffic in the new parking lot and that the school should monitor speed issues in the lot. Alex Hanson suggested posting speed limits at 15 MPH, so if students are speeding their parking permit can be suspended.

Peter Torrey thanked him for the suggestion and the school may ultimately revisit the speed tables should the problem exist.

Ralph DiBernardo suggested keeping an eye on and see what comes up statistically, going back to the gate being closed, the traffic pattern is going to require everyone that goes to the front door of the new school to go left and go all the way around the school to get there. Peter Torrey stated they can come in the parking lot, go right to come around the school.

John Burke noted one other TAC issue related to parking policy. He noted that it costs a student \$25.00 a semester to get a dedicated parking spot in the lot or \$25.00 to ride the bus. He noted that this policy runs counter to what most schools are doing in trying to promote mass transportation. Since the buses are a fixed cost it is in all interests to have them used. What we should consider is leveling the playing field so that the choice to drive a car alone is appropriately priced relative to the bus. s. We do want to work with the School Dept. Peter Torrey stated that the School Department is not in opposition to reviewing their policy. He noted that at one point it was free to park and the school bus cost \$240 to \$300 a year for students 14-years and older – so there has been progress. It was agreed that John would work with the School Department on this issue.

- (B) Thaxter Road/Islington Street – Corner clearance – Deputy Police Chief Dave Young informed the Committee that the accidents were checked 3 years back and only one reported accident was found in 2002.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept and place on file. Steve Parkinson seconded. Motion passed.

- (C) Portsmouth Boulevard/Commerce Way – 4-Way Stop Sign Violations – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Police Department for enforcement. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Dave Young. Motion passed.

V. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION made by Ted Gray to adjourn. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas