

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 AM – Thursday, February 10, 2005  
City Hall - Council Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

John Hynes Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

**II: ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman	Fire Chief Chris LeClaire
Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman	Ted Gray, Member
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation	Ron Cypher, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Herb Bunnell, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	Jonathan Bailey

Chairman John Hynes, who was not present at the on-site reviews, turned the meeting over to Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman.

Chairman Hynes brought to the Committee's attention an issue regarding parking across from the Funeral Home on State Street. There has been consistent all day parking issues there that make it difficult for people trying to access the funeral home. He noted that the issue may be on the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

Steve Parkinson noted that on page 2, paragraph 2 of the minutes, the term "maintain" should be replaced with "plow". Also on page 2 the next to the last paragraph should have read "end of the ballfield at Hislop Park".

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion by Ted Gray to accept the corrected minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of January 10, 2005. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Chairman Hynes informed the Committee that he received three phone calls on the issue of plowing the sidewalks from people who wanted to know why their sidewalks were not plowed. They will be at the Council meeting on Monday. This item was addressed at the last Traffic & Safety Committee meeting when Steve Parkinson stated that the City cannot plow all sidewalks in town, that in some cases it is the responsibility of the homeowners. The City takes care of the areas surrounding schools, main arteries and the downtown district.

Ralph DiBernardo stated there was another correction to the minutes that slipped his mind. The meetings were changed to the second Thursday of the month. On Page 3 the Motion stated that the on-sites be changed to the second Tuesday. Ralph noted that sometimes the onsite review falls on the first Tuesday of the month.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to hold the on-sites on the Tuesday that precedes the second Thursday of each month. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

**IV. COMMUNICATONS:**

- (A) **Notice of National Highway Safety Agency Grant Application** – John Burke informed the Committee of the annual notice from the National Highway Safety Agency to fund Public Works and Police Department safety requests. The application is due at the end of March.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) **280 Heritage Ave.** – Proposed construction of 1-story industrial building (15,600 s.f.), a 2-story garage (2,700 s.f.) and another 1-story industrial building (29,400 s.f.) on a vacant lot – Dennis Moulton of Millette Sprague & Colwell presented the plans. Because of the type of industrial uses on the site there will be tractor-trailers circulating the parking lot, which was a concern of the Traffic & Safety Onsite Committee. The original proposal showed an entrance off Heritage Ave. as 48 ft wide, which would allow traffic to come in off Heritage Ave. and turn in any direction in the lot. Given that the City’s standard commercial driveway width is 35 feet, we will reduce the proposed driveway to 35 feet. This will require that we no longer allow trucks to turn in front of the first building, thereby limiting tractor-trailer traffic to only the wider driveway to the north of the building, which is 44-ft wide. He indicated that signage will be installed on the site directing truck traffic to the wide side of the site only.

Ted Gray thanked him for listening to the members of the committee at the on-site and he believes that this plan change should address those concerns.

Ron Cypher stated that he was still concerned that the tractor-trailer drivers would still have to back in to the loading docks on their blind side. Dennis stated that they have sufficient room to head in.

John Burke referred to the proposed directional signage on site and asked if it was the applicant’s intent to direct all car traffic to the right as they enter the site. Dennis stated no. John recommended that perhaps the sign should direct truck traffic only. Dennis stated that the signage will be changed as suggested.

**MOTION** made by Herb Bunnell to accept the proposed plan as presented with corrections. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) **Islington Street near Essex Ave.** – Review of on-street parking – Ralph DiBernardo stated that the on-site committee reviewed the parking on the corner for site distance and general safety. Ron Cypher stated that the one homeowner effected had no problem with restricting parking on Islington Street south of Essex to improve sight distance. Ron suggested that parking be restricted from the fire hydrant on Islington Street to Essex Street on the fire hydrant side and on the southerly side of Essex St. 20 feet from the corner of Islington Street.

**MOTION** made by Ron Cypher that parking be restricted from the fire hydrant on Islington Street to Essex Street on the fire hydrant side and on the southerly

side of Essex St. 20 feet from the corner of Islington Street. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Jonathan Bailey stated that at the last meeting the Committee discussed evaluating the entire Islington Street corridor and wants to make sure that this change is part of those overall safety improvements.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

State Street/Funeral Home Parking Issue – **MOTION** made by Ted Gray to put the parking and safety issues in the vicinity of the Funeral Home on the next Traffic & Safety Committee Agenda. Herb Bunnell Seconded. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson asked the Chairman if the owner of the Funeral Home was going to send correspondence outlining his issues and concerns? Steve noted that the Committee generally acts on matters after receiving written correspondence that outlines the concerns or problems. Chairman Hynes stated he would see to it that a letter is sent in.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Herb Bunnell to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Gray. Adjourned at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elaine E. Boucas