

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM – Thursday, July 14, 2005
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

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| Councilor John Hynes, Chairman | Herb Bunnell, Member |
| Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman | Ted Gray, Member |
| Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director | Ron Cypher, Member |
| Police Captain Janet Champlin, | Jonathan Bailey, Member |
| Fire Chief Chris LeClaire | |

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Steve Parkinson to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of June 9, 2005 with the following correction. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

B. Church Street – Should read “MOTION made by Ted Gray recommending elimination of parking on Church St. from State to Court Streets”.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) **Leary Field** – Residents Request for “Children at Play” sign – City Council referral- (letter dated May 24, 2005 attached) – Steve Parkinson stated there were two issues. 1. Concern of traffic and amount of children in the area. Public Works Dept. will find appropriate signs for playground area that meets requirements of MUTCD and have them erected on Rockland St. and end of Sherburne St so people will be aware that it is a playground area. Captain Champlin stated she had a meeting with the Neighborhood Association because of National Night Out and there have been 8 new families that have moved in with small children and she concurred there should be appropriate playground signs. Ralph DiBernardo stated there are no “children at play” signs within the engineering standards for traffic signs.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson for Public Works to provide appropriate signage. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson stated that at the on-site the Police Department was asked to monitor this area to see if there were conflicts with cars parking directly across from each other. Capt. Champlin stated that she did not have results as yet.

Ralph DiBernardo suggested to the Fire Chief to see if the truck can fit down there.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to have the Police and Fire Departments monitor the area and report back next month. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (B) **Sherburne Road** – Residents request for “slow down traffic” signage and to be included in the group that makes decisions re: Orchard Park reconfiguration – (letter dated June 7, 2005 attached) – Steve Parkinson looked at this area and there are existing speed limit signs in the general vicinity of the old Sherburne school which is used as a school as well as the ballfield out back. Recommended erecting appropriate school zone signage, as there is none in either direction. It is a dead end road and most of the people on this road are residents there. Capt. Champlin reported that there are traffic officers now that are dedicated to doing just traffic enforcement and this is another traffic area and will report next month.

Ralph DiBernardo suggested she set the letter aside and tell them we are going to take care of this. Also stated that when it is a neighborhood issue that a neighborhood might help with communication.

MOTION by Steve Parkinson to properly sign the school zone. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson referred to the site review for Northeast Credit Union and that in the future we needed to look at the intersection coming in from Rte.33 where it meets Sherburne and Borthwick. There, is currently a 2-way stop, potentially should make it a 3-way stop. Will need to go through an engineering evaluation before anything is done and the neighborhood would be involved.

Fire Chief LeClaire stated there was discussion of taking the stop sign out. Steve responded that it needs to be looked at, and will come back before this committee and will go through an engineering evaluation.

- (C) **Woodlawn Circle** – Resident Request for 4-way sign and speed limit enforcement (letter dated June 6, 2005 attached) – Steve Parkinson noticed that there were no speed limit signs there because the street does not appear in the Ordinance and without it being designated in the Ordinance, the state speed limit is 30 MPH. We may want to recommend to the City Council to add this street to the Ordinance in the 20-25 MPH range. Janet Champlin suggested having more surveys done and having the stealth stat there to monitor the average speed.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place stealth stat there and table until next month. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (D) **Islington Street** – Resident concerns with traffic/congestion and continued construction (undated letter attached) – Ralph DiBernardo recommended the issue be addressed next month in order to allow everyone time to look at it and determine what recommendations we can deal with and what we can't.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to table until next month for review. Seconded by Capt. Janet Champlin. Motion passed.

- (E) **Jackson Gray Medical Building** - Request for signage along Borthwick Ave. (letter dated June 17, 2005 attached) – Steve Parkinson stated there are two parts to the letter, 1. Dealing with crosswalks in front of their building, their concern is appropriate crosswalk signage. There is one sign coming from the hospital side, not one on the other side. DPW will erect the appropriate crosswalk signage.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to erect the appropriate crosswalk signage on Borthwick Ave. for the crosswalks in front of Jackson Gray. Seconded by Capt. Champlin. Motion passed.

Discussion followed as to who has the right-of-way in crosswalks? Capt. Champlin responded the person in the crosswalk has the right-of-way. The idea behind crosswalks, especially downtown, is that vehicles going the speed limit have plenty of time to stop when seeing someone going into the crosswalk. There is no hard and fast rule but in general persons in crosswalk has right-of-way.

Steve Parkinson read from the City Ordinance regarding this issue.

Fire Chief LeClaire referred to Pleasant St. intersection, there is no indication of “no turn on red” and asked if this should be posted or understood. Capt. Champlin suggested doing more enforcement and monitoring and stated she observed people are oblivious of the lights there, do not look at traffic and walk right out.

Steve Parkinson referred to the 2nd request of Jackson Gray Building. They realized they did not have sufficient on-site parking and shortly after the building was opened, came back to the City Council and worked out an agreement to construct some on-street parking (10 spaces in front of the building) and 10 to the east towards the By-pass. They still have parking issues and are looking to create an additional 20 parking spaces on the opposite side of the street across from the 20 spaces they currently have. Steve Parkinson’s opinion is that this would not be a safe situation. The committee was asked if they wanted to put this item on on-site and look at it? After discussion, it was unanimously agreed by the Committee to deny this second request. Steve Parkinson stated this Committee should respond back to the applicant of our decision.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to deny their request for additional parking and inform the applicant of their decision. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (F) **Moffat St.** – Resident request for signage (letter attached) – Steve Parkinson stated this is a request to put a no-outlet sign.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to erect a no outlet sign above the street sign. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (G) **Greenleaf Ave.** - Resident request for additional sign – (letter dated June 23, 2005 attached) – Steve Parkinson stated the request is for a “slow children” sign. Fire Chief asked Capt. Champlin if she was aware of any problems or issues. Capt. Champlin responded there is a skateboard park there and there are no children playing in the street and are no complaints in the area and suggested putting the stealth stat there.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to have the Police Dept. place the stealth stat there when it is available and place this request on file. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (H) **Green St. - Parking** – (Police Dept. memo dated June 16, 2005 attached) – Capt. Champlin stated the problem is we are not sure who owns what property and the problem is on the north side at the autopart store. Steve Parkinson stated they own 3ft out from the building. There is no parking on Green St. both sides from Russell St. to Vaughan St. except the northerly side from Vaughan St., so by Ordinance, parking is allowed from Vaughan Street to Market Street.

MOTION made by Capt. Janet Champlin for no parking both sides of Green Street from Russell Street to Vaughan Street and to refer to City Council. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (I) **Vaughan St. – Parking** – (PD Referral) Capt. Champlin referred to the issue of coming onto Vaughan St. at the Herald there are a lot of cars parking along the railroad tracks. There are no parking spaces designated so people are parking haphazard. Police have been ticketing and towing, as some of this is railroad property, but no signage is posted. We need to do one of two things, do away with parking on that side or put lines down so that it is parallel parking so it is clear you can't back cars in between pillars. As there is dirt there, suggested putting signage "parallel parking only".

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to designate "parallel parking only" on the southerly side of Vaughan Street from Maplewood to Green St. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Marston Street** — Letter received from Mimi Clark that the situation is greatly improved and at this time, would like this placed on file.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Cass Street** - Ted Gray referred to parking on both sides of Cass St. presenting a problem in the future of traffic going both ways and stated to let it sit for now.
- (B) **Islington Street** - Ralph DiBernardo asked the members to look at the letter as we will need to go down each item and asked Capt. Champlin to look at it and suggested putting the traffic speed trailer at the top of the hill. Steve Parkinson mentioned that there is a report coming from the Consultant which is a compilation of all the information done on the corridor and recommendations which should be received by the end of this month. Ralph DiBernardo will notify Mr. Vaughan that we are working on this.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas