

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman	Deborah Finnigan, Traffic Engineer
Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	John Connors, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	

Excused absences: Herb Bunnell and Jonathan Bailey
Also present was Lucy Tillman, Planning Department

Chairman DiBernardo introduced and welcomed John Connors a new member to the committee.

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 October 13, 2005. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Pearl Street** – Formation of subcommittee consisting of two representatives from this committee, two residents and two business owners to meet with Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer – Chairman DiBernardo asked if any member of the committee wanted to be on the subcommittee. Jonathan Bailey and Ron Cypher will be the two Traffic & Safety representatives. Steve Parkinson suggested that John work with Debbie to get the members of the public (residents) and business community.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson for this committee to appoint Committee members John Bailey and Ron Cypher to the subcommittee to work with Debbie Finnigan the Traffic Engineer to get two residents and two business owners for the subcommittee and report back to this committee concerning progress. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **South St./Summit Ave.** – Discussion of the on-site meeting (Crossing Guard letter attached) – Forrest Randall, Principal of the High School explained they are hoping to give their Traffic Control Officer, Janet Vinciguerra the ability to control the intersection at Summit and South Streets in a different manner than she is currently able to do. Presently she must let traffic go in all directions

coming out of the high school. We are requesting that this committee allow Ms. Vinciguerra to enforce a right turn only coming out of the high school between 7:00 and 7:30 or when she is there to control traffic, which would then improve our traffic flow through the high school property itself. Requesting a right turn only either when intersection is controlled or during a specific window of time whichever the Committee thinks appropriate to allow Ms. Vinciguerra to more effectively empty the Portsmouth High School traffic cue.

Steve Parkinson asked during this period of time did he still want the buses to still take the left-hand turn?

Principal Ransdell answered yes, the buses would still be allowed to go in the direction required. The number of students coming in by bus is approximately 300. The problem is similar in the afternoon, however, there are not as many parents picking up the students as there is dropping them off. So the issue in the afternoon is much less congested. If we were to look at this just in the morning, we would see a large improvement on school ground circulation.

Ted Gray asked if there was any way to encourage more students to use buses?

Forrest Ransdell stated there have been financial incentives created such as Portsmouth buses no longer cost high school students to ride and the student parking fee was doubled in cost.

Principal Ransdell stated the problem is not at the intersection as she does an exceptional job keeping the intersection itself moving, the problem exists on the school grounds, Summit and Andrew Jarvis Way due to backup

Peter Torrey stated we used the services of John Burke as well as this committee to help us as we developed the high school construction plan back 4 or so years. This committee was part of the approval process of the high school plan. There has been a problem with egress and ingress for sometime. Peter asked the Committee if the current Traffic Engineer would meet with them to look at the circulation pattern again and see if additional improvements can be made. and to table this matter.

After discussion Ralph DiBernardo stated the Committee does not have a consensus and thanked Peter Torrey for giving the Committee another chance to look at this.

MOTION made by Chief LeClaire to table and have Debbie Finnigan report back next month during which time our Traffic Engineer and School Department will work for a viable solution. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Pleasant Street/Court Street** – (Current Ordinance together with Proposed Court Street Ordinance Change attached) Steve Parkinson stated that Debbie Finnigan found the Ordinance subscribe no Parking Court Place to Middle St. on the northerly side. In another Ordinance it does subscribe a change in 1996 that there is no parking on the northerly side between Church St. and Court Place but no where was there an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the north side from Pleasant to Church Streets. This is to make the Ordinance consistent with what is actually happening there. There is no signage there.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to City Council for no parking on the northerly side of Court Street from Pleasant to Church Streets. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) **Austin/Summer Streets** – Dangerous Intersection - Request for 4-way stop – Resident concerned about safety of intersection with reference to a recent accident where the driver ran an existing stop sign. Would additional stop signs correct problem when someone ignores the existing one. Deputy Police Chief Dave Young stated there were 2 accidents in the last two years, the recent being the second.
Steve Parkinson stated there are no warrants that are met to turn this into a 4-way stop.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

Ralph DiBernardo asked to inform the resident.

- (C) **Islington between Albany/Bartlett Streets** – Lane Designation - Police Department referral – Deputy Police Chief Dave Young suggested having it striped and will work with Debbie.
Debbie Finnigan stated between 2000 and 2005 there were six reported accidents turning into Tiny Toyland. There were 13 accidents at the intersection of Islington and Bartlett and 5 were between Bartlett and Albany Street. Debbie suggested either extending the lane to Albany Street and have a sign stating designated lanes or second option to put paving markings as no parking. Recommended extending lane to Albany Street and put up sign.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer this to Public Works for implementation based upon the plans presented by the Traffic Engineer. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Young. Motion passed.

- (D) **Atlantic Heights** – Changing Places Housing Project – TAC Referral – Attorney Bernie Pelech was present together with Dennis Moulton of Ames Architects on behalf of Changing Places. Attorney Pelech referred to the on-site and the Planning Dept. would notify the owner that the vegetative barrier that was shown on the plan has not been installed and this may rectify the problem and hopefully prevent that through traffic that concerned the neighbors. Attorney Pelech turned this over to Dennis Moulton for any questions you may have on the specifics.
Dennis Moulton, architect for the project spoke of the structure of a subdivision on the existing plot of land. The property is owned by Cicero Lewis and is a single-family house. The proposal is to construct a road which connects Crescent Way to Saratoga. There would be 23 townhouse style units, each with 2 car parking garage. All road widths and utilities are approved, the road in the subdivision is the standard 32' wide with 50' right-of-way. A concern that the Atlantic Heights community group has is pass through traffic going by the storage and out to Kearsarge Way. The other concern was the current condition of Raleigh Way and at some point is programmed for reconditioning. Anticipation of 10 trips generated in the a.m. peak hours and 12 in the p.m. peak hours.
Ted Gray asked the price range and how many children might be involved here. Mr. Moulton answered \$250-300,000 with 2.3 school children in the elementary and Jr. high school and less than 1 for high school. There are 2 bedroom, and square footage is 1500.

Ralph DiBernardo recommended that we separate a couple of motions, refer this to Planning and Legal Departments to find a resolution, and the safety issue was

brought to our attention and we are referring to the bodies who deal with this safety issue.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Planning and Legal Departments to resolve the problem of traffic cutting through Saratoga to Kearsarge on a private way. Seconded by Ron Cypher.

Ralph DiBernardo informed the Committee there was another long-term issue that came up by committee members in discussion over years and concern for safety in the neighborhood that they have only one entrance into the Heights. Ralph doesn't feel that it becomes the responsibility of this developer, the responsibility of the community, it has existed for years and years. Whether we recognize that because it has been brought up for discussion would be up to the Committee.

Ted Gray asked Lucy if she had any input. Ms. Tillman stated the only concern is the cut through area which is back to us again.

Fire Chief LeClaire stated it comes to his attention and Emergency Management that the neighbors are concerned with having only one way out should an emergency arise along the highway or industrial areas. There is an access road at the end of Porpoise going down to the Public Service issue. This is an issue and will become exasperated with those concerned with this issue with more housing being built out there. Chief LeClaire brought it to the Committee's attention to be on record as having that concern, and should be referred back to the Planning Dept. so it can be addressed.

Deputy Police Chief stated that if a major disaster arises, one lane in and one lane out should be cause for concern and should be addressed at some point in the future.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept the plan as presented. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Summer/Islington Streets Intersection** – After the last meeting Steve Parkinson received a letter regarding this intersection and will respond back.
- (B) **Community Campus** – Chief LeClaire asked about getting stop signs taken down. Referred to West Road going into Community Campus there is a stop sign, The road from Lafayette to Community Campus appears to be the first street with a stop sign and appears to be absolutely no reason for a stop sign at that intersection and how would we get it down. Development and traffic patterns changed at this intersection.

Steve Parkinson suggested that if we have these issues come before the committee we analyze them.

Debbie Finnigan will look at this intersection and will be placed on the next on-site.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted _____