

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM – Thursday, April 13, 2006
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Steve Parkinson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	Herb Bunnell, Member
Deborah Finnigan, Traffic Engineer	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	John Connors, Member
Police Capt. David Ferland	Eric Spear, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of March 9, 2006. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Tanner Court** - Request for Review of Parking – (Resident letter attached) – Fire Chief LeClaire referred to on-site of parking behind Kline’s Furniture Building. The issue is a very narrow street with traffic backing out of driveways with parking in an area not made for parking. The recommendation was to have no parking on back of building where the driveways are down to the telephone pole and parking from the telephone pole toward Tanner St. with exception of the required legal length.

MOTION made by Chief LeClaire for no parking on Tanner Court by Kline’s Furniture from Parker St. to the telephone pole and a “No Parking” sign placed 20’ from Tanner Street on Tanner Court. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

The meeting was turned over to the Chair, Ken Smith.

- (B) **1001 Islington St** – Sight Distance – John Connors referred to the on-site and the recommendation was that a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign be placed at the end of curbing where there is a curb section of sidewalk and the sidewalk turns into a cement sidewalk. This would help improve sight distance.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place a “No Parking Here to Corner” sign at the curb section of sidewalk. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (C) **NHDOT US Rte.1 Project Advisory Committee** – Vacancy to be filled by Representative from Traffic & Safety Committee – Steve Parkinson stated the

Committee has existed for almost two years, Ralph DiBernardo was the former Traffic & Safety Committee's representative to that Advisory Board and we now need someone to fill this position. Ken Smith asked for volunteers. The Committee met once a month, now once every other month at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings at Public Works. Fire Chief LeClaire volunteered to represent the Traffic & Safety Committee.

- (D) **Home Depot** – Interconnection Roadway – (Site Plan attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported that Steve Parkinson, the proponent of the project and the traffic engineer met to discuss putting in the interconnect road and safety improvements we wanted to see on the Flatley site, where the proposed Home Depot is going. Home Depot did not have the interconnecting road between their current site and proposed site at TAC and TAC asked them to put this in. This will help alleviate Home Depot and other traffic on Woodbury Ave. which would be there if Home Depot did not put it in because one way to get there from the North is down Woodbury Ave. To get there from the South you can use Rte.16, Market St. or Woodbury Ave. This also helps if they need to go to other stores in the area, they do not have to leave the site, get onto Woodbury Ave. and go to the other shopping plaza, they can take this route right into the back of Shaw's. This is also part of an effort in many communities including the NHDOT. This effort will interconnect parcels of development so that you keep people off the main corridor and keep them where the development is and also helps traffic flow. In our case Woodbury Ave, there is a lot of queuing, frustration as it takes so long to get through that section of roadway. The plan is a 24' roadway with curbing, guardrail on each side. Discussions were had at TAC concerning putting in sidewalks and lighting. Our goal, however, was to compromise, put the roadway in and not impact the wetland buffer as much as we could have.

Fire Chief LeClaire asked if it was a City road. Debbie Finnigan responded it is a private road and will be maintained by Home Depot per agreement.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to accept the proposal. Seconded by Police Capt. David Ferland. Motion passed.

The Chair asked if there would be any lighting on these roads. Debbie Finnigan responded the beginning and end of the roadway. The existing roadway that goes up to the back of Shaws will be restored to loam and seed.

- (E) **National Highway Safety Agency Grant Application** – Approval of Application – Steve Parkinson explained the State of New Hampshire solicits grant requests from municipalities primarily in the Police enforcement area of DUI's and speed-related issues. The past few years we have been able to successfully get funds for variable message sign boards through this program. We tried for another board last year and because we had received two in the past were denied as the State funds two per community. We submitted a request this year for funding (50% funding) for a stealth stat to be used by the Public Works Department similar to what the Police Department uses for speed type studies to of traffic for better designing of roadway improvements throughout the City. The second item is an emergency traffic control equipment item. Our thought is to take a retiring ambulance and outfit it as a dedicated safety response vehicle for cones, barricades, lighting systems, all traffic control equipment that is readily available in this vehicle dedicated for that type of emergency responses,

setting up detours at accident scenes, fires or any type of emergency situation that arises. This vehicle would be dedicated for this type of service, we currently do not have a vehicle dedicated for these types of situations. This will decrease our response time in getting these types of detours and safety zones set up in a timely manner. This is brought to this Committee for approval as an endorsement of the project.

MOTION made by Chief LeClaire to approve this application. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (F) **McDonough Street** – Request for review of neighborhood signage – (letter dated April 4, 2006 attached) – Debbie Finnigan referred to a letter with concerns regarding truck traffic, a park with no “Children playing” sign together with several other concerns. Debbie Finnigan requested stealth stat to be looked at in that area and there were none. The Ordinance states 20 MPH speed on McDonough and Cabot Streets. They would like more signage. Debbie Finnigan stated that the “Children at Play” signs near the park is not a bad idea. It is a very short piece of road not sure how many speed limit signs can be placed on a short roadway. Agrees with placing missing street signs. Against 3-way stops unless there is an extreme volume of traffic that warrants it and does not feel any of these neighborhood locations warrants a 3-way stop, also does not work in reduction of speed. Dead end or no outlet signs are appropriate. One-way signage is definitely needed as it is a safety issue for people not familiar with the area. There are many requests for signs and she agrees with some of the issues, and not others.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to have Debbie Finnigan research this more and come back with a report of her recommendations on signs. Seconded by John Connors.

Ted Gray asked if this should be referred to on-site. Debbie Finnigan didn't feel it was necessary but anyone is welcome to join her. She has gone out there when looking at the Pearl St. issue and was aware of the signage. There is some other recommendations in the Islington St. study to switch two of the one-ways to be opposite way to make it safer for sight distance and will inform the Committee of this as well.

- (G) **Market Street Entrance to Market Square** – Police Department referral (Photos attached) – Debbie Finnigan referred to Officer Hoysradt's concern of Market St. going into Daniel, Congress and Pleasant. People are basically driving through the stop signs and not paying attention and on Daniel St. where there is no stop sign, are stopping. Is there anything we can do to make these signs more apparent to those drivers? Debbie Finnigan suggested putting up LED stop signs, and paint back the stop and paint a stop ahead on the ground or stop sign on opposite side of street directly in front of them. Capt. Ferland stated there are not frequent accidents there, but the ones that happen involve pedestrians.

MOTION made by Police Capt. David Ferland to paint the stop at the stop line and paint a stop ahead on the ground further down the street. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (H) **Thornton/Bartlett Streets** – Police Department referral – Truck Traffic (resident letter dated January 30, 2006 attached) – Capt. Ferland stated this has been on their radar screen for awhile and have directed a lot of patrol time to this area. One suggestion was to replace the stop signs at the intersection of Thornton and Bartlett Streets and can't because where they are now is the best place for them. This is on the Police Department's screen for increased traffic enforcement, we are not coming up with many violators as the letter states. National Sea Products has spillage from time to time and have addressed this with meetings. There are early morning deliveries made to Ricci Lumber and have talked with Ricci Lumber and to the people who bring the materials in and asked they make them later in the day. We are not observing truck violations on Thornton St. they are using the truck routes as it is signed. Not experiencing significant speeding problems or with people not stopping at that intersection. Sgt. Ronchi is working on this with the zone cruisers to make sure that our observations are permanent and not something that is temporary because we are looking into this matter. Feels this is enforcement for the Police Department to work on.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place on file. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

- (I) **Franklin Street - Parking Enforcement** – Debbie Finnigan reported she spoke with Jason Page who is receiving complaints from the neighbors of people parking next to each other at the end of the dead end and someone comes along and parks in front of one of the vehicles and the person in back cannot get out. The Police are receiving calls. Ted Gray suggested having the neighbors speak with the offenders as this usually has more of an effect.

Steve Parkinson stated that there was a sign down there along the retaining wall. This past fall the fence was taken down and the wall was rebuilt, the fence is back in place now and the signage has not been replaced and is probably the reason this has become an issue.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to replace the sign. Seconded by Police Capt. David Ferland. Motion passed.

- (J) **Sherburne/Elwyn Avenues** – Safety Issue (Memo dated March 30, 2006 attached) – Steve Parkinson stated this was a voicemail that came to our dispatch from a resident that would like us to place “resident traffic only” signs on Elwyn and Lincoln Avenues for the Sherburne Avenue area. They're concerned with safety of 14 children.

MOTION made by Chief LeClaire to place on file. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

V. **INFORMATIONAL:**

- (A) **“Here to Corner” Signs** – The Chair referred to the memo from the Legal Department.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Colonial Drive** - Herb Bunnell referred to a request for signage in the area for “Children at Play” and asked Steve Parkinson if he would look at the area. Steve stated that “Children at Play” signs no longer exist. The signage we now have denotes playgrounds or recreational areas, unless it was in an area where there is a playground, however, Steve will look at it.
The Chair suggested the Police Department do more enforcement if there is a speed issue.
- (B) **Appointment of Vice-Chair** – Chief LeClaire asked if a vice-Chair should be appointed. The Chair responded “absolutely”.

MOTION made by Chief LeClaire to nominate Steve Parkinson. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary