

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 a.m. – Thursday, June 8, 2006
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Ken Smith, Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	Jonathan Bailey, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	John Connors, Member
Assist. Police Chief Len DiSesa	Eric Spear, Member
Assist. Fire Chief Achilles	Christina Westfall, Member
Herb Bunnell, Member	Deborah Finnigan, Traffic Engineer
Ted Gray, Member	

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ted Gray after correction reflecting Jonathan Bailey's presence at the May 11th meeting, to accept the amended minutes of the May 11, 2006 meeting. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Wentworth Home** - Proposed Site Improvements – TAC referral (Site plan attached) - Eric Weinrieb of Altus Engineering explained the proposed site improvements and major renovations of the building. Propose to keep Wentworth Street a 2-way public street, create a one-way access into the parking lot, a one-way out looping around. Currently there is no loading zone or access to the site on the Melcher St. side. A drop-off and pick-up area is proposed on Melcher St. We are taking away people who illegally park on Wentworth St. and will reduce congestion in that area. Also creating a buffer zone between the parking lot and Wentworth St., a raised island creating a safer access and pedestrian access.

Debbie Finnigan stated they will need to do a traffic management plan which needs to be approved by Department of Public Works.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept the plan as presented. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (B) **New Castle Ave./Marcy St.** – Parking, resident complaint – Debbie Finnigan received a complaint that when people park either on the sidewalk or street on the right side coming from New Castle. People are crossing over double yellow centerline causing a hazard and if there is ever a head-on accident, the person crossing over the yellow line would be at fault. The Ordinance states there is no parking on the northerly side on New Castle Ave. from New Castle to Marcy St. New Castle Ave. from Marcy St. to South St. there isn't an Ordinance stating no parking for either side.

Ken Smith referred to the site walk when we looked at the sidewalk side of re-establishing the sidewalk all the way up when Public Works Department does the road construction. Put no parking on the sidewalk side and move parking across the street and remove the double yellow line and post proper speed sign.

Debbie Finnigan stated that New Castle Ave. is 20 MPH.

Steve Parkinson wasn't sure this Committee has the power to re-establish the sidewalk. It may be more proper to accept the complaint and place on file until construction work is done. The plan is to re-establish curb line and sidewalk in that area. As far as the yellow line we will not paint it this year. The stop bar and speed sign will be. Suggested that there are certain places in that area where people are parking on areas that are not sidewalks because there is no established sidewalk on that part of the street.

MOTION made by Jonathan Bailey to place on file and recommend these changes when they incur and when the road construction comes up to add the stop bar to make changes to paint and reconsider a short stretch of no parking at the intersection. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

There will be no parking at this time only the stop bar will be placed and speed sign put up and after construction will look at no parking areas and re-establishing the curbing will happen during the construction portion.

- (C) **Bridge/Hanover Street Intersection** – Requests for 4-way stop (resident e-mail attached) – Jonathan Bailey referred to the on-site. Deputy Police Chief looked at accidents for last year which were relatively low. The site lines were determined to be adequate for a city intersection. Considered repainting the curve where Deer St. goes to Hanover in order to control that intersection. Changing Bridge and Hanover itself was not warranted.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Deer St. /Maplewood Ave. Light Signal** – Timing of red light – Report back – Debbie Finnigan presented the members with questions that are generally asked, the second page shows existing traffic volumes and projected traffic volumes. The third page is coordination and signal phasing data at Deer St. and Maplewood Ave. intersection. Hopefully this will explain why people feel they are sitting at a light longer than before. The longest cycle length of this signal is 120 seconds (2 minutes).
Ken Smith stated that this is an intersection that will be looked at within the next 18 months or so, assuming the conference center goes through.
Debbie Finnigan stated that all traffic signals work together and if this coordination is changed, all signals will need to be changed, they all work together for a reason.
Jonathan Bailey asked if the sheets Debbie Finnigan presented to them could be put into a press release for the local paper?
Ken Smith said that this could be posted on the City's website. Debbie Finnigan will get permission to use this information.

- (B) **Jenkins St. off Summit - Parking** (resident e-mail attached) – Steve Parkinson stated this is an on-going issue since there is insufficient parking for high school students. Some are parking on Jenkins Ave. which is a narrow one-car wide street going from Summit to Rockaway. There were a number of cars parked there at the on-site, cars had to go around the parked cars by going on the shoulders or lawns. Our recommendation was to have no parking either side on Jenkins Ave. from Summit to Rockaway and at the end of Jenkins at Rockaway parking could be allowed, but not during school hours. Post this area “No Parking during 7:00 am – 3:00 pm” Monday thru Friday allowing the neighbors to park.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson for no parking either side on Jenkins Ave. from Summit to Rockaway and at the end of Jenkins at Rockaway, to post “No Parking 7:00 am – 3:00 pm” Monday through Friday, which would allow neighborhood parking. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary