

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, August 9, 2007
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	Jonathan Bailey, Member
Steve Parkinson, P.E. Public Works Director	John Connors, Member
Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa	John Howe, Member
Assist. Fire Chief Steve Achilles	Ted Gray, Member
Deborah Finnigan, P.E., Traffic Engineer	Eric Spear, Member

Christina Westfall, excused absence.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the July 12, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Assistant Fire Chief Achilles. Motion passed.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Washington/Richmond Ave. and Washington/Hancock** – Request for “No Parking Here to Corner” sign – Asst. Fire Chief Achilles referred to the on-site and there are some parking issues in that area, especially on Washington closer to Richmond, with no delineated parking, people have the option to create parking along that area close to the intersections of those streets. Discussed potential options and one would be to establish parking spaces along Washington up to Hancock which would establish appropriate parking spaces and designed to give distances from the intersections. Also “No Parking Here To Corner” sign on Hancock at Washington.

MOTION made by Assistant Fire Chief Achilles to establish delineated parking along Washington from Strawberry Banke parking lot up to the intersection of Hancock St. Add a “No Parking Here to Corner” Sign on Hancock at Washington (easterly side). Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Franklin Street** - Request for “No Parking Here to Corner” sign – Ted Gray stated that Public Works has a challenge getting trash and recycling trucks down Franklin St. as well as all the small narrow side streets off Pleasant with parked cars. Suggested no parking 20’ from intersection.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to have no parking 20’ from intersection. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Debbie Finnigan stated the distance is in the MUTCD and she stated it can be from 20-40 ft according to City Attorney.

John Connors stated it would be the same problem with fire apparatus trying to get through those tight streets, it is a safety issue as well and suggested to leave this up to Debbie Finnigan and have her look at them, use her discretion and report back. Steve Parkinson stated we should look at all of them. There are rules and regulations of how close parking is to corner and signage reinforces that. John Connors stated that if the 20' is not sufficient for fire apparatus and if it had to be more than 20-40' could we make it more accessible for emergency vehicles as well as trash/recyclables vehicles. The Chair stated to leave this to the discretion of our Engineer.

The Chair suggested a report back for the other streets at the next meeting.

- (C) **Middle Road/Ward Place** – Request for crosswalk (letter dated July 27, 2007 w/map attached) – Assist. Fire Chief Achilles referred to the on-site feeling it was a difficult assessment if there should be a crosswalk and if it would be used, we did recognize that people should get from one side of Middle Road over.

MOTION made by Assist. Fire Chief Achilles to place on file and keep an eye on it. Seconded by Ted Gray.

Steve Parkinson stated his concern as neighborhood change, there is a playground there, Middle Rd is a very busy area, there are no delineated crosswalks on that stretch and feels there should be something in the area to safely get, at least provide, whether they use it or not, we have responsibility for providing some kind of safe crossing across Middle Rd.

Jonathan Bailey stated we had previous requests in the past and one from Kensington Rd which we looked at and were unhappy with site light as it was at the top of a hill and at that time did not recommend it.

Debbie Finnigan stated that she spoke with a consultant regarding crosswalks and looked on the DOT website to see if there was something specific and at a minimum you do need a landing to meet ADA requirements which is a federal requirement and will look further into this.

Assist. Fire Chief Achilles rescinded his Motion and have a report back next month. Agreeable to second.

MOTION made by Fire Chief Achilles to have Debbie Finnigan investigate and report back. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (D) **High off Deer Street** – Wrong way (Police Dept. E-mail dated 7/12/097 attached) – Deputy Chief DiSesa stated this is an ongoing issue, High St. is one-way going east to west onto Deer St., there are two “Do Not Enter” signs posted at that intersection and cars continue to make that illegal turn. When we are there everybody complies, when they spot a cruiser. Suggested better signage and at the on-site Steve Parkinson recommended that cars going towards from Market, post a sign reading “No Right Turn” before High St. and discussed pavement markings on the street.

Debbie Finnigan stated that if the stop bar does not go from curb to curb it should, as it helps some, making it clear there is a stop bar. Also suggested an arrow coming off High St. pointing in the direction traffic should go, and to make the stop bar 24” rather than 18”.

Deputy Chief DiSesa stated once that is done we will back it up with enforcement.

MOTION made by Deputy Chief DiSesa for better signage and pavement markings. Police will back up with a solid enforcement a plan, test it and see what happens. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

The Chair stated doing this with paint and signage would be a low cost way of doing this as eventually Deer St. will become one-way, and if it continues to happen then relook at how High St. comes onto Deer St.

- (E) **Hanover/Bridge** – Request for Stop Sign and crosswalk (stop sign information attached) – Debbie Finnigan met with the McDonough St. neighbors who again brought up Hanover/Bridge St. and the ability to cross street and typically they cross on the western side, there is not a crosswalk there and requested we look at putting in a crosswalk and still have concerns with intersection and requested a four-way stop at that intersection but it does not meet the requirements. Recommended putting a crosswalk and appropriate signage crosswalks ahead.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place a crosswalk and placing appropriate signage “Crosswalks Ahead” coming down Bridge St. around corner. Seconded by Deputy Chief DiSesa. Motion passed.

Ted Gray asked where was this crosswalk suggested? Debbie Finnigan responded on Bridge St.

Steve Parkinson explained there are crosswalks across Hanover on both sides, only one crosswalk across Bridge. They are requesting a crosswalk on the other side of the intersection.

- (F) **McClintock/Leavitt/Sweat Streets** – Request for Speed Signs – Steve Parkinson received a telephone call from a resident concerning speeding cars. This neighborhood is bordered by Peverly Hill and Middle Road in back of the shortstop store. There are no speed signs in this neighborhood and cars speed. The streets do not fall under any Ordinances therefore the speed limit would be 30 MPH and don’t think they would want to streets posted at 30 MPH. In order to establish a speed limit for this area, would like the Police Dept. to place stealth stat there and report back.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to have the Police Department place a stealth stat there and report back. Seconded by Asst. Fire Chief Achilles. Motion passed.

Jonathan Bailey asked if this would have to go to City Council for Ordinance.

The Chair stated it would need a recommendation from this Committee.

The Chair asked if it would be appropriate to look at the speed limit be changed from 30 to 20 MPH unless otherwise posted. Steve Parkinson stated this is an RSA if the road isn’t posted it is 30 MPH on City streets.

- (G) **Stark & Dennett Streets** – Running Stop Signs – Debbie Finnigan reported that at the Safe Route to School Committee (SRTS) it was brought up that vehicles are still running the stop sign at this location and have concerns with kids walking to school and suggested putting in a 24” stop line and “Stop Ahead”

signs or pavement markings. Vehicles stop when Police are there, when they are gone they run the stop sign.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to move Debbie Finnigan's recommendation to place stop bar and signage.

Deputy Police Chief stated when we are out there we take an action, but is difficult for us to set up there and be invisible, when we are there, everyone complies. There are two stop signs one after the other on Dennett and asked if this has been looked at by the Committee that there are two stop signs in close proximity?

Ted Gray it was requested because the school was there and to keep traffic somewhat under control as kids cross.

Jonathan Bailey asked if this is an example of a poorly placed stop sign being used for speed suppression. Debbie Finnigan responded "probably".

MOTION made by Assist. Fire Chief Achilles to place on the on-site for next month to look at both Stark and Dennett for further consideration. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

John Howe asked if we know how much traffic is there? The Chair stated we can have this in the report back.

IV. INFORMATIONAL:

- (A) **Parade Mall** – Letter dated June 27, 2007 - Debbie Finnigan this is to let you know that the Parade Mall is working with the Hill regarding the issue of the rubbish truck pullout.
- (B) **Rte.1 Lafayette Road at Wilson Road** – Letters dated July 25, and July 26, 2007 attached) – Debbie Finnigan stated this is in response to her letter concerning the intersection near Market Basket at Wilson and Rt.2 and Wilson. People driving over the shoulder is a police enforcement issue.

John Howe reported that there was a huge "Yield to Pedestrian" sign that was flat on the ground next to the light pole. Debbie Finnigan will report this.

- (C) **McDonough/Bridge Streets** – Speeding issue – Police Department e-mail dated 7/17/07 attached) – Deputy Chief DiSesa contacted the neighborhood residents of the survey results and they were fine with it. Reported that he visited this neighborhood at National Night Out and were very happy with the results.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **McKinley and Van Buren** – Assist. Fire Chief Achilles asked as schools open that employees of the school and parents are educated about vehicles going through stop signs at Van Buren and McKinley intersection. Deputy Chief DiSesa responded he will pass this on to the SRO.

- (B) **Coakley Road** - Al Romano of Coakley Road requested pedestrian light and crosswalk at Greenleaf Ave. which would be a great improvement and safety. The Chair stated this will be added to our next month's Agenda to look at this and to prepare a letter to the Chairman of Technical Advisory Committee so that as they begin to look at the Meadowbrook project this be made part of that project. Debbie Finnigan stated this would have to go to DOT as this is their signal. Steve Parkinson stated this project will be coming to this Committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary