

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, July 10, 2008
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, P.E. Public Works Director	Jonathan Bailey, Member
Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa	Christina Westfall, member
Deborah Finnigan, P.E., Traffic Engineer	John Howe, member
	Brendan Cooney, Member

Excused absence: Assist. Fire Chief Achilles and John Connors

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting. Seconded by John Howe. Motion passed.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Middle/Cass Streets** – Safety Concern (e-mail dated June 5, 2008 and map attached) – Deputy Police Chief DiSesa referred to site-line issues and checked accidents for the last four years. There were four accidents, one in 2006, one in 2007 and two in 2008, only one accident that was intersection related, the other three happened to be on Middle by Cass. Only one accident where someone turned right onto Middle, a minor fender bender collided with a car going south. The Police Department's feeling is that it is an appropriate sight line, people enter that intersection with due caution, can make a safe turn. The request was to move a "No Parking from here to Corner" sign further down on Middle to create a longer sight line and do not feel it is warranted or justified at this time.

MOTION made by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa to accept and place on file. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Ocean Road** – Safety Concern (letter dated June 26, 2008 attached) – Steve Parkinson stated this is a heavily traveled thoroughfare from Rte.33 to Rt.1, truck traffic continues to be an issue. Years ago the City entered into an agreement with the State DOT to jointly fund improvements to Ocean Rd. namely sidewalks etc. with the ultimate goal of the City obtaining ownership of Ocean Rd. until the City has ownership, there isn't anything more we can do at this time.

Debbie Finnigan stated that the design for the project will start. The construction funding for this project has been reduced on the State side so the sooner we start the better.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept letter and place on file. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

- (B) **Lafayette Road** – Joe’s New York Pizza – Safety Concerns (map attached) - Christina Westfall referred to people coming from the parking lot and cutting across in front of median and people taking a left out of the parking lot onto Lafayette are creating a safety hazard. Discussions of how to prevent people from doing this and moving the island forward and making people either go down Suzanne Drive or go down and make a u-turn and also moving the island over and making parking straight in instead of currently angled.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa did an accident survey for the last two years for accidents on Lang and Lafayette and Suzanne and Lafayette. There have been ten in the last two years, five in 2006, two in 2007 and two in 2008. Only one was at the intersection of Suzanne and Lafayette a minor rear ender on Lafayette nothing to do with turning from Suzanne to Lafayette. It is not considered an accident area.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer this to Department of Public Works for a study to see what kind of design could be done to better control that intersection and would have to be done in conjunction with NHDOT. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **1950 Lafayette Road** – Report Back (plan attached) – Debbie Finnigan stated the sketch with associated signs on the back was the proposal approved by TAC.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept the report. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Suzanne Drive** – Report Back (letter dated June 13, 2008 attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported that requests take approximately four or five months for a response from the State.

MOTION made by John Howe to accept the report. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- (C) **Livermore Street** – No Parking Both Sides of Street (letter dated June 30, 2008 and e-mails dated July 2, 2008 and telephone notes dated July 2, 2008 attached) – Ted Gray referred to the on-site and it was decided that curbing should be put along the northwest side of the park and make that side three-hour parking.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to recommends the Public Works Department install curbing on Livermore St. and include it in the next capital budget. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa recommended along with the three-hour maximum parking that residential parking be discussed. Steve Parkinson stated that the Parking Committee has discussed residential parking and it is not an easy solution, and resident means any resident of Portsmouth.

- (D) **Maplewood Ave.** – No Truck Traffic (Proposed Ordinance Change attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported the attached Ordinance will go to the City Council for approval.

MOTION made by Jonathan Bailey to accept the report. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

IV. INFORMATIONAL:

- (A) **Parking Newsletter** – The Chair thanked Jon Frederick.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Referrals from City Boards and Commissions

- (A) **1840 Woodbury Ave.** – TAC referral – Kentucky Fried Chicken – (plans attached) – Attorney Pelech referred to TAC which Dennis Moulton will go through, handicap signs, handicap delineation can be taken care of and added to the plans. Will go by what the ITE Manual states for trip generations. The traffic and landscape was discussed and if there will be any shrubs there they will not be higher than 3 ft. so there won't be any obstruction to the line of sight. Pavement markings will be made as requested.

Dennis Moulton, MSC Engineers, gave an overview of the proposal to expand the existing building, reconfigure parking and access around the building, landscaping, repaving, sidewalks. Handicap signs and ramps as requested by TAC. There was concern with the trip generation report that the numbers shown were overstated and will address this.

Debbie Finnigan stated for clarification the proposed cell phone store is 4,000 sq.ft. and asked what else is going in there, it seems large for just the cell phone store and is not part of this study and is a concern.

Dennis Moulton responded it is a combination of sales space and offices serving a regional hub with approximately 8-10 employees.

Debbie Finnigan referred to his statement that the sight distance is more than adequate and Debbie stated she needs values and actual speed.

Mr. Moulton responded over 600 ft.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to approve. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Porter & Ceres Streets** – Legal Dept. Referral – Safety Concerns (map attached) – **Porter Street** - Jon Frederick, Parking Engineer stated that the area is approximately 20 ft, is not a dumpster loading zone and will fit within the confines of that area.

Steve Parkinson stated the need to be licensed to be on City property. We will need to work with the various owners, in some cases, to change the type of containers they have and get them flat against the building rather than the ones they have now that stick out into our right-of-way and prohibit the flow of traffic through the area.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa stated that cars have been allowed to park on the public way and this is being monitored and had those cars moved at the site walk.

Steve Parkinson referred to the issues with the unofficial loading zone at the corner of Fleet and Porter and suggested since the loading zone needs to go to the City Council for Ordinance approval to include the other one as well to clarify that also as a loading zone.

The Chair stated that loading zones become parking spaces after 6 p.m. and how do we prevent vehicles from parking there.

Jon Frederick responded a 24 hour loading zone.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to recommend to City Council the creation of two 24-hour loading zones on Porter St. one being as indicated on the drawing and the other being on the northerly side of Porter St. at the intersection of Fleet St. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

The Chair stated that the dumpsters will be licensed by the City going through the City Council and Department of Public Works will work with them on the proper sizes and location against the building to get them into the proper area of the City way and will be licensed to be in the City way at a designated area set forth by the City.

Ceres Street – Jon Frederick stated this is another unofficial loading zone and unofficially recognized as the area along the chain link fence with parking on both sides of Ceres St. Believes this can be handled through enforcement. People were writing their own loading zone passes for their dashboards. This will be issue will be concentrated on at the next Parking Committee meeting.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to recommend this continue to be enforced and to refer to the Parking Committee for a more standard way of creating the loading zone signs. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa. Motion passed.

- (C) **3000 Lafayette Road** – TAC referral - Fire Station (plans attached) – Fire Chief LeClaire referred to the plan for the proposed 13sq. ft. fire station with curb cuts on Lafayette Rd. and Ocean Rd. with vehicles returning through Ocean Rd entrance coming through the back of the building and exit out for emergency response on Lafayette Rd. Traffic pre-emption issues are being addressed to control that intersection involving, in the event of emergency response out Lafayette Rd., a red light stopping traffic southbound and at the intersection all signals going red with the exception of the southbound traffic on Lafayette Rd. going green. There is a meeting this afternoon with DOT to address these issues and are working with landscaping issues to meet with the Planning Board in August.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept the proposed plan as presented with the stipulation that if the curb cut is not approved by DOT and is changed, it needs to come back to Traffic & Safety. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

Debbie Finnigan stated that currently neither curb cut has been approved by DOT and if for some reason they want it somewhere else, will we be back here looking at that particular item?

The Chair responded “yes”, it would have to come back to Traffic & Safety if the curb cut is not approved and suggested this be a stipulation in the Motion.

- (D) **Parade Mall** – TAC referral (plans attached) – The Chair recused himself and passed the gavel to Steve Parkinson, the Vice Chair.

Patrick Crimmins referred to the site changes for the amended Port Walk project 1 and 2. On July 1 met with TAC and received recommendation for approval by the Planning Board with the stipulation we come before Traffic & Safety. The previous proposal included three building mixed use development with a hotel, residential, retail and restaurant uses, a two story underground garage below all three buildings. The amendment to that approval, we are now proposing to subdivide that property into three lots. The purposes of sub-dividing the project is flexibility in today's economy which allows us the flexibility to both finance and construct the project for Lot 1 being the hotel component and Lot 2 the residential component. Lot 1 is the previously approved 128 ft hotel with 7500 sq. ft retail and 2500 sq. ft restaurant use. Lot 2 is the proposed residential component, the previously approved project was 28 units now changed by increasing to 36 units. Also includes the previously approved 10,000 sq.ft. retail and Lot 3 which has not yet been submitted for approval is going to be submitted next week for approval at August Planning Board including previously approved 158,000 sq.ft. office, 43,000 sq.ft retail and 12,000 sq.ft. restaurant. A big change is the amended approval for a 2 story garage, 608 spaces, now changed by the rolling development is the garage foot will be shrunk so it falls only under Lot 3, the proposed garage will be approx. 200 spaces and one story and by shifting the garage just under lot 3 and puts these two buildings up and open while lot 3 is being constructed. As requested by TAC they have reduced the hotel building footprint on lot 1 by 660 sq.ft. which allows addition of 4 spaces to the Hill parking area, eliminated parallel parking spots in rear of hotel which allowed us to add 13 spaces in the rear. The residential building will be a few feet closer to the Port Walk allowing us to create some head-in parking and added 13 spaces as well. The width of traffic calming table was reduced on Port Walk Place to include two more spaces on the Port Walk, which traffic calming table is included in the packet. Another change is pushing the garage footprint to lot 3 and reducing the garage from 680 spaces to a one story 200 space garage. Another TAC stipulation we will address is that each of the buildings will be equipped with emergency notification system. Mr. Crimmins also presented the Committee with traffic memorandum prepared by Robin Bousa if VHB and went through a few key points referring to the trip generations which will be substantially less by down sizing the garage. For the record Mr. Crimmins read the Conclusion as follows:

CONCLUSIONS

“The trip generation calculations provided herein indicate that the development of Lots 1 and 2 will result in fairly low traffic volumes that mostly likely would not be noticeable to motorists traveling in the vicinity of the site. Therefore, no off-site mitigation appears to be necessary to support the development of these two lots.

The overall development program for all three lots will result in lower trip generation estimates than the previously approved plan as a result of the reduction in the parking garage. Therefore, it has been concluded that the traffic mitigation measures previously required for the project (i.e. signal coordination updates for Maplewood Avenue corridor) would remain appropriate for implementation with the development of Lot 3. As mentioned above, previous

studies prepared for the Portwalk project considered traffic operations with and without the development of the Westin project.”

The Vice-Chair then asked for questions.

Steve Parkinson stated that parking issue is not before this board but in addressing that issue this project meets the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance as far as parking and asked Lucy Tillman if she had other comments to add. Lucy Tillman stated Mr. Parkinson was correct in that it does meet the requirements and has a great deal of credit for previous uses on the property.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa reiterated for the record, the safety concerns for a site survey for a Motorola carrier for the buildings and asked they work with Gil Emery the Communications Supervisor at 610-7411 to make sure that officers or firefighters going to those buildings can hear us and we can hear them.

Debbie Finnigan stated that the new plan for the traffic calming device, assuming it gets approved needs to be approved by DPW prior to Planning. Regarding the traffic memo received yesterday at noon, Ms. Finnigan has questions concerning constructing it this way what is the impact of traffic as the roadway open while building Lot 3 or will it be closed.

Mr. Crimmins responded it will be open. It is a one way but wide enough for two cars, there will be one lane of traffic open with the parking spaces.

Ms. Finnigan asked the width of that traffic lane?

Mr. Crimmins responded at least 12 ft.

Ms. Finnigan asked if the parking on that side remain while doing construction.

Ms. Crimmins responded yes.

Ms. Finnigan suggested the lane be 14 ft.

Ms. Finnigan has concerns with the conclusion, not necessarily need to be discussed here but part of the stipulation will be that this memo be reviewed and approved by DPW and Planning Board.

Ms. Finnigan asked Mr. Crimmins to explain why the table needed to be shorter as she is uncomfortable with the space north of the table being there not being sure how that will function.

Mr. Crimmins stated it is the same design as previous.

Ms. Finnigan asked exactly where is the drop off on the street, is it labeled?

Mr. Crimmins responded it is labeled on the site plans.

Ms. Finnigan stated it won't be labeled as a parking space, specifically be for drop off.

Mr. Crimmins responded yes.

Ms. Finnigan asked what the distance is between the last space to the south of the traffic island to the first parking space?

Mr. Crimmins responded at least 20.

Ms. Finnigan asked the parking spaces behind Lot 2, will they be labeled residential only? This needs to be resolved.

Ms. Finnigan because it wasn't included as part of this package, for the record, trucks can access the new lots without issue.

Mr. Crimmins responded yes.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa asked what position is the street going to be in after Lots 1 and 2 are completed while you are doing Lot 3? How will the street be left?

Mr. Crimmins stated these details will be worked out in the reconstruction plans which was a stipulation of TAC and will be a very detailed plan.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa asked if during that temporary time frame will there be parking spots there, will it be a useable street.

Mr. Crimmins stated that is a detail we need to work out.

Ms. Finnigan stated if you are going to keep it open, it needs to be a street that functions and that needs to be paved. As far as construction management goes suggested it be included in the construction management plan.

Lucy Tillman had nothing to add.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to approve as presented with the stipulation that they discuss with the Police Departments the Motorola carrier and be able to discuss any changes that may arise for traffic. That the applicant needs to come to agreement with the Department of Public Works in reference to the off-site mitigation that is associated with the development of Lots 1 and 2 and that the traffic table needs to be approved by Department of Public Works. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary