

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, November 13, 2008  
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	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, P.E. Public Works Director	Jonathan Bailey, Member
Police Captain Dave Ferland	John Howe, Member
Fire Inspector Carl Roediger	Brendan Cooney, Member
Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer	Christina Westfall, Member

Absent: John Connors

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion made by Steve Parkinson to accept the amended minutes of the October 9, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**(A) Pleasant/Hancock Street Intersection** – Request for No Parking and location change of Stop Sign (map attached) – Debbie Finnigan reported that it was requested that she look at this intersection. Cars park around the stop sign and up to the driveway, it is not a well defined location. Another issue is people park between Gate and Pleasant Streets and when coming towards town cannot see anybody parking on that tiny section of street when taking a right on Hancock. That section is 30 ft long and should not be parking there as the requirement is there’s no parking here to corner at least 20 ft. Suggested two motions, the first being to post between Gate and Pleasant St. No Parking and the other section should be referred to DPW to make this a better functioning intersection and moving the stop sign closer to the actual intersection. The suggestion was to make that more of a T’d up intersection.

**MOTION** made by Christina Westfall to post “No Parking” between Pleasant and Gate Streets at that little Strip. Seconded by Police Capt. Ferland. Motion passed.

**MOTION** made by Jonathan Bailey to refer to DPW for possibility of t’ing up that intersection and report back. Seconded by John Howe. Motion passed.

**(B) Lower Woodbury Avenue** – Bartlett St. intersection - Request for change of direction of current one-way flow (Letter dated September 22, 2008 with Petition attached and 15 Woodbury and 72B Woodbury Ave. resident letters attached)

Public Comment Session –

Kathy Anania, Woodbury Ave. explained why the request to change the traffic flow to help the speed, there is a school, a playground and an elderly complex there, the streets are walked on quite a lot. The road is more narrow and more dangerous than before and will be narrower with the snow banks.

Jim Colbert, Woodbury Ave. also supports this request to change the traffic flow.

Rebecca Emerson, Woodbury Ave. – Is grateful and enjoys the sidewalk which was not there before. It is very tight there and will be even tighter when the sidewalks are completed. Ms. Emerson requested to have a traffic study done and expressed the need to look at more options, more signage. Suggested the possibility of a stop sign at corner of Cottage and Woodbury. A stealth stat was placed there and she would be interested in knowing the amount of increased traffic in the eight years since it was placed there.

Emily Piro, Woodbury Ave. is in favor of the traffic flow reversal and referred to the speed of the vehicles.

The Chair referred to the Committee's discussions at the on-site and the fact it may be more dangerous making that left turn off Bartlett, the possibility of a dead end of Woodbury onto Bartlett. It has been an issue for sometime.

John Howe also recommended a traffic survey be taken and at the same time the traffic survey take into account the Cottage St. and new construction at the Circle and the traffic coming into that area from that direction to use the By-Pass, so that it takes in a broader sense of the traffic situation there.

**MOTION** made by John Howe that a traffic study to be done and report back with further recommendations and alternatives for this area. Seconded by Police Capt. Fernald. Motion passed.

The Chair explained the procedure and will send Kathy Anania a notice and asked that she be the neighborhood contact to inform the residents of the future meeting.

Steve Parkinson stated that he and Debbie Finnigan have been working with the State to get some of the signage changed. We are trying to eliminate the existing (I-95) Woodbury and Maplewood signage in trying to direct more people to the Spaulding or Market St. ext. and will continue to work with them.

- (C) **746 Middle Road** – Request for No Parking (map attached) –Debbie Finnigan explained that the resident is concerning about parking close to his driveway and can't see to get out and requested no parking in that section. Debbie Finnigan referred to the on-site and feels it deserves another look at it with a full Committee to discuss this because of the Holiday, not everyone was available.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table this for next month for another on-site. Seconded by John Howe. Motion passed.

- (D) **240 Middle Street – Middle, Richard and Austin Streets Intersection** – Request for Traffic signal or four-way stop (letter dated October 3, 2008 and map

attached) – Debbie Finnigan stated this has been discussed before, it is a tough intersection. The request is for a 4-way stop or stop light. Debbie Finnigan will look at this and suggested “pedestrians ahead” marking on the street. There is not a lot we can do because of the right-of-way restrictions.

**MOTION** made by Jonathan Bailey to place on file. Seconded by Ted Gray.

Steve Parkinson would like the opportunity to look at the geometry somewhat of Austin into Middle.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Public Works for a report back and that Debbie Finnigan look at Sagamore and Miller. Seconded by Police Capt. Ferland. Motion passed.

Debbie Finnigan referred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue on the letter regarding the pedestrian signal. The traffic signal can have a concurrent pedestrian phase and this is allowed per MUTCD. The location needs to be appropriately marked, such as South and Sagamore.

Steve Parkinson suggested looking at Sagamore and Miller considering Little Harbor School is there to see if the concurrent pedestrian phase should be changed to an exclusive pedestrian phase

- (E) **207 International Drive – Tradeport – National Passport Center** – Request for Crosswalk (map attached) – Debbie Finnigan received telephone calls for the International Passport Center as they are moving their building to 207 International and are requesting crosswalks which are shown on the map. There is going to be a crosswalk placed on Oak Dr. once construction is completed. For the record, the Chair stated that anything we do with Pease is advisory only, we act as their advisory board, we have a good working relationship with PDA and usually take most of what they’re requested of us at our value.

Ms. Susanne Delaney stated they moved in October and will be continuing to operate out of their old facility on Rochester Ave., most of the staff is at the new facility and there will be a lot of foot travel back and forth.

Maria Stowell, Pease Development Authority Engineering Dept., stated that PDA has an agreement with the City to maintain the rights-of-way, anything you recommend here unless there is some objection or appeal, your recommendation becomes final.

**MOTION** made by John Howe to accept this recommendation and add another crosswalk at Rye and International Drive. Seconded by Ted Gray.

Debbie Finnigan feels there should be review of the location requested. Does not know if there are appropriate ADA ramps there and appropriate sidewalks. A crosswalk cannot be put in unless there are appropriate tipdown and sidewalk. There needs to be an opportunity to verify this request and would like the opportunity to look at this before finalizing this recommendation.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table to refer to Department of Public Works for report back. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (F) **Islington at Dover/Salem Streets** – Request for “No Parking” sign (map attached) – John Howe referred to on-site and felt it appropriate to install “No Parking Here To Corner” sign at intersection of Dover and Islington Streets and Salem and Islington Streets.

**MOTION** made by John Howe to install “No Parking Here To Corner” sign at intersection of Dover and Islington Streets and Salem and Islington Streets and to add they look at the whole corridor to include Brewster and Landgon intersections from Dover into Bridge that do not already have “No Parking Here to Corner” signs and to move the ”No Parking Here to Corner sign 40 ft. back on Dover St. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Mr. Howe stated this is an issue of the whole corridor and wondered if it is appropriate to include Brewster and Langdon intersections from Dover into Bridge St. as they have a similar problem, that do not already have “No Parking Here to Corner” signs.

Steve Parkinson responded in this case since the Agenda was strictly for Islington at Dover and Salem, would be inappropriate at this point but as we go forward with the whole study of the area it will become apparent where they are needed.

The Chair stated that on the eastern side of Dover St. people are making turns onto Dover people are making turns onto Dover and a car is parked right up on the right hand side there is “No parking Sign there, but they still get one space there and suggested moving it back 40 ft., then would be a clear turning radius.

## V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Washington/Hancock/Pleasant Streets** - Request for No Parking on both sides of Street (Flyer and e-mail dated 10/29/08 attached) –

Public Comments:

Tom Hindle, 204 Washington St. would appreciate no parking on that side of Washington St. and request that they be able to park in front of their homes for a short period of time to drop things off.

Steve Parkinson stated it is a No Parking zone and there are no permits that can be issued to exempt you from the Ordinance.

Mr. Hindle stated from a safety perspective suggested it be made a one-way.

Mrs. Sara Churchill, Washington St. also in favor on no parking, people park there and go into town.

Hollis Broderick, Washington St. feels the street should be one-way. He would like to be able to park in front of his home.

The Chair stated whatever we do will require an Ordinance change and explained the procedure that will take several months, probably after the first of the year.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to request an Ordinance change from the City Council for “No Parking on Both Sides” of Washington St. from Hancock to Pleasant St. and will look at the area of the fire hydrant. Seconded by Police Capt. Ferland. Motion passed.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGE**

For the record Debbie Finnigan handed the members an e-mail she received supporting no parking on Washington St. between Hancock and Pleasant Streets.

- (B) **Market Square** – 3-way stop - Report back – Debbie Finnigan had a traffic count performed and had the opportunity to go through the counts. Some of the all-way stop warrants were met and some were not. The volumes were pretty high during the day. In each hour there were approximately 1400 cars going through this location, which is a high volume with two crosswalks right after each other. Recommends placing the stop sign, a stop bar and paint that says “stop” and in a temporary measure down the street have a pre-sign saying that in two weeks this will be a stop condition.

**MOTION** made by Police Capt. Ferland to place a stop sign on Daniel St. with a stop bar as it goes into Market Square with appropriate signage and press release. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

**This is not an Ordinance Change, only notification to City Council.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary