

MINUTES
PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, August 14, 2014
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Lown called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor Brad Lown
David Allen, Deputy City Manager
Carl Roediger, Deputy Fire Chief
Darren Sargent, Police Lieutenant
Peter Rice, Public Works Director
Ronald Cypher, Member
Shari Donnermeyer, Member
Ted Gray, Member
Harold Whitehouse, Member
Mary Lou McElwain, Alternate

Staff Advisors Present:

Mark Nelson, Parking Division Director

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Moved to accept the minutes of July 10, 2014.

Motion passed.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Moved to accept the July 2014 Financial Report and place on file.

Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Action Item: Traffic problem on Hanover St between Rock and Pearl Streets -
On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted to restrict parking along one side of Hanover Street between Pearl and Rock Street, and amend Chapter 7, Article III; Section 7.330: NO PARKING 53. Hanover Street: a. northerly side from Pearl St to Brewster St.
(This item is enacted as a temporary regulation and will be considered for inclusion in a future omnibus ordinance- See Section 7.330)

B. Action Item: Student drop-off issue on Haven Road -
On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted to have Little Harbour School Staff manage barricades during peak traffic times on Haven Road & Clough Drive, with signage per City order for “No Parking” during drop off and pick up at school peak hours.

C. Action Item: Traffic and speed issues on Court Street - **On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted in the short term, to request the additional police detail on Marcy & Court as well as Atkinson & Court Street during special events. Public Works is to have an engineering warrant study conducted to determine if a speed limit and stop sign is needed. At the corner of Pleasant & Court Street, where there is a site distance issue, Public Works Staff will contact the Langdon House residents to discuss the fence line and adjustment options.**

D. Action Item: Bike warning signals for Route 1A - **On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted to place a sign before Pleasant Point Drive within the City limits of Portsmouth, which meets the bicycle regulations set forth by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).**

E. Action Item - Request for Crosswalk on Marcy Street near South School Street- **On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted to have Public Works create a cross walk from the north side of South School Street to the handicap curb cut out at the corner of Partridge Street and Marcy Street.**

F. Action Item – Request for Crosswalk on Islington near Albany Street - **On a unanimous roll call 10-0, voted for a motion to postpone this item until the Design of the Islington Street Improvement Project and the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan have been completed.**

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Update on Atlantic Heights road - (David Moore - Community Development)
Mr. Moore provided an update on the Emergency access road (PSNH Boat Road) in the Atlantic Heights Neighborhood. He reminded the Committee that an in-depth presentation on the issue was presented at the Committee' June 12, 2014 meeting. Since that time, he advises that City staff including Police, Fire, DPW, and Community Development representatives had met to discuss outreach to the neighborhood and to workshop protocols already in place for operating the boat road. In addition, the same City representatives met with representatives of PSNH to discuss the FY 15 Capital Improvement Plan item to make improvements to the boat road in cooperation with PSNH to enhance the usefulness of the boat road. This would follow recent coordination with PSNH by the DPW that resulted in the placement of emergency evacuation signage. Various improvements were discussed and DPW is following-up on a scope of work and progressing with this work in parallel with other work on this issue. In addition, a meeting with neighborhood representatives attended by Assistant Mayor Splaine, that was held on site at the Porpoise Way gate of the Boat Road to discuss the operational readiness of the boat road, the process of identifying that particular route, and related neighborhood concerns. In follow-up to this meeting, City staff worked to distribute information about the Boat Road availability in the event of emergencies to the neighborhood via Facebook and the Atlantic Heights' list serve as well as information about the Community Alert System (reverse 911) that can assist in spreading the word about a neighborhood emergency. He also indicated he would be working with the Fire Chief to schedule a meeting in the neighborhood to provide additional information about the Boat Road and its readiness for use by the neighborhood in emergencies.

Mr. Moore also advised the Committee of the concerns expressed at the meeting with neighborhood representatives about the industrial truck traffic accessing industrial use parcels abutting the other end of the neighborhood by the I-95 Bridge. Ms. Morse, an attendee at the meeting, expressed her concerns about the mixing of the truck traffic with residential traffic, the noise associated with the trucks, and highlighted concerns about driving habits of some of the drivers. Mr. Moore said staff discussed some steps to address these concerns including referring enforcement issues to the Police Department (completed), increasing signage related to Jake brake usage on Kearsarge Way (in progress at DPW), contacting the industrial users directly regarding neighborhood experiences and concerns (completed by Police Department). Mr. Moore further advised the Committee that he was aware that the neighborhood intended to advocate through the City Council for a new permanent secondary access that would eliminate truck traffic from Kearsarge Way.

B. New Franklin School

Mr. Whitehouse stated his concerns regarding the increase in traffic around New Franklin Drive heading onto Woodbury Avenue at drop off and pick up times during school hours. Mr. Whitehouse is looking for status on this item and is wondering if any protocols have been implemented to deal with the traffic issue due to the school year starting within a few weeks.

Mr. Rice stated that the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has been contacted, and a request has been made to have this intersection be included as part of the bridge design. This is the permanent solution, but in the short term we contacted the NHDOT project manager on the Maplewood Ave Bridge project to determine the changes needed based on increased traffic.

C. Regulating Motor Scooters and Moped Parking

Mr. Gray inquired about the status of the parking issues with scooters and mopeds around the city. Mr. Rice said he will speak to the City's Legal Department and will report back on enforcement options and including the option of designating parking spots for mopeds and scooter parking only.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jack Hartman representing St. Johns Masonic Association, spoke about having the cross walk from the parking lot to the Temple replaced on Miller Street and also putting a street light in the same area. Mr. Rice said the crosswalk is scheduled to be replaced and once completed, Mr. Rice will have a walk thru to discuss the need for lights.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL:

IX. ADJOURNMENT - At 9:00 a.m., voted to adjourn.