

MINUTES
PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

8:00 A.M. – Thursday, May 14, 2015
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Temporary Action Item requiring an ordinance during the annual omnibus

VI. B. - Bike Corral on Market Street

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor, Brad Lown

City Manager, John Bohenko

Public Works Director, Peter Rice

Deputy Fire Chief, James Heinz

Captain, Frank Warchol, Police Department, arrived at 8:10 a.m.

Parking and Transportation Engineer, Eric Eby

Member, Ted Gray

Member, Shari Donnermeyer

Member, Ronald Cypher

Alternate Member, Mary Lou McElwain

Staff Advisors Present:

Transportation Planner, Juliet Walker

Excused Absence:

Member, Harold Whitehouse

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Moved to accept PTS Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2015.

Mary Lou McElwain motioned to accept minutes. City Manager, John Bohenko, seconded.

Motion passed 8-0

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Moved to accept April 2015 Financial Report and place on file.

Ted Gray motioned to accept April 2015 Financial Report. Peter Rice seconded.

Motion passed 8-0

Mrs. McElwain requested information on the percentage of parking tickets paid that were issued. Staff will provide a report.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Valet parking renewals, Atlantic Parking Services and 100 Club – Atlantic Parking Services submitted three requests for renewals and the 100 Club requested one renewal. Mr. Eby stated that all are current valet parking agreements with the City and they expire at the end of June. Peter Rice confirmed that the relationship with the valet companies has been positive. Mrs. McElwain expressed concern over the use of tents due to weather and sandwich boards blocking sidewalks. City Manager, John Bohenko, also had questions for the company representatives. However, there were no Atlantic Parking Services representatives in attendance.

City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to table Atlantic Parking Services valet parking renewals. Shari Donnermeyer seconded. **Vote 8-0, to table the item until next meeting for Atlantic Parking Services representative to be present.**

City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to table 100 Club valet parking renewal. Shari Donnermeyer seconded. **Vote 8-0, to table the item until next meeting for 100 Club representative to be present.**

B. Two-way downtown traffic study – This item was referred to the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee by the City Council. Staff will make a report back at a later time. City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to approve request. Ted Gray seconded. **Vote 8-0, approving request for staff to report back.**

C. New diagonal parking locations – Eric Eby referred to Rick Chellman's presentation where he suggested several locations in the downtown where diagonal parking could increase the parking supply. City Manager, John Bohenko, suggested a site visit or providing Rick Chellman's presentation to the PTS in order to fully understand the consequences of diagonal parking. Staff to report back. City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned for staff to report back and provide two areas of pilot programming for the next meeting. Shari Donnermeyer seconded. **Vote 8-0, to have staff report back with two pilot programming areas next meeting.**

D. Water Country exit signing for I-95 and Route 1 –

E. No truck signs on Constitution Avenue at Banfield Road –

Combined items for discussion.

Residents living on Banfield Road brought the issue to the attention of the committee. Traffic leaving Water Country to access I-95 and Route 1 is problematic for Banfield Road residents. The current issue is the traffic pattern where vehicles exit Water Country taking a right onto Constitution and a left or right onto Banfield. Peter Rice and Eric Eby suggested that staff review current signage and report back at next meeting.

City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to suspend the rules, to allow public comments. Peter Rice seconded. **Vote 9-0, to suspend the rules.** Captain Frank Warchol joined meeting increasing the vote count.

Kelly Shaw, 892 Banfield Road, and Andrea Amico, 820 Banfield Road, spoke regarding the traffic patterns. They are seeking interstate signs to direct traffic to Peverly Hill, not to Ocean Road, and then move traffic to Route 1. Another suggestion is to direct traffic to West Road and right on Peverly Hill with direct access to Route 1. This would decrease traffic in the neighborhood.

City Manager, John Bohenko, agrees that more signage is needed.

No action item. Staff to review current signage and report back at next meeting.

Mary Lou McElwain requested clarification of name suffix for Constitution. Is it Constitution Lane or Constitution Avenue? **Staff to confirm at next meeting.**

F. Crosswalk near Sanders Market on Marcy/South/Pleasant Street -

The committee conducted a site visit on Tuesday, May 12th. Eric Eby said that there is an old faded crosswalk at the location near the market. It does not serve pedestrians well because it leads directly into a parking space. The crosswalk is not handicap accessible. There is also an existing crosswalk at the north end of the intersection at Pleasant Street.

The best option could be to put a crosswalk on Marcy Street as it curves in from South Street. This option has the shortest crossing distance and would not require removal of any parking spaces on the south side. The crosswalk would require eliminating one parking space on the north side and handicap ramps to be ADA compliant on each side. Staff requested additional time to review traffic and pedestrian volumes and traffic speed before making a final recommendation.

Brad Lown suggested proposing this site as one of the pilot study spots for diagonal parking. Peter Rice explained that confluence of roads is very challenging due to sight distance and an in-depth analysis and review are needed to provide a thorough study for safety issues. Ronald Cypher emphasized that diagonal parking would negatively impact sight distance for pedestrians.

No action item. Staff granted additional time for comprehensive study.

G. Crosswalk on Lafayette Road at White Cedar Boulevard – This request was sent via letter by a resident of White Cedars. This is the signalized intersection at the Wal-Mart entrance on Route 1. There are no sidewalks, crosswalks or pedestrian signals at this intersection. It is a State owned location.

Juliet Walker, Transportation Planner, mentioned that the entire Route 1 corridor was identified as needing bike and pedestrian amenities. Because this site has been identified as a need, when an opportunity arises at the State level for a conversation, the City will pursue it.

Peter Rice explained that due to declines in state and federal funding, challenges in getting projects funded will continue.

No action item.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Sheafe Street Pay and Display Meter Installation – This request was presented by the Friends of Sheafe Street.

City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to suspend the rules, to allow public comments. Peter Rice seconded. **Vote 9-0, to suspend the rules.**

Jonathan Sobel, 49 Sheafe Street, spoke on the confluence between the commercial interest for parking and the committee suggestion to place meters on the street. He states this is in direct conflict with interest of residences because most of the homes do not have on-site parking. The petition requests protection to the homeowners on Sheafe Street who need parking and would be displaced to other areas for parking needs. He estimates that restaurant employees take 50 percent of evening parking. Dr. Sobel emphasized the uniqueness and historic aspects of the area.

City Manager, John Bohenko, states that a residential parking program is under evaluation. The second garage is an important component because once a program is established it will provide the additional parking needed for those who cannot park on residential streets. Also, a universal sticker for the residential parking is needed.

Marie Bodi, 121 State Street (main egress on Sheafe Street), states that committee members met with the City's engineers and design consultant on February 11, 2015, where they were informed of improvements to be made on Sheafe Street. Two main concerns expressed at the meeting were the width of the new sidewalks and if metered parking would be introduced. Ms. Bodi states they were told there would be no metered parking. She specifically identified other streets in the city that do not have metered parking and requests the same consideration be given to Sheafe Street residents.

Ms. Bodi also discussed problematic issues with a local utility using resident water during utility construction.

Ms. Bodi stated her concern that residents were only notified the afternoon prior to the last meeting. Peter Rice clarified there was no intent to vote on this item at the last meeting. The intent was to provide more than a month's notice of this action item in order that residents could participate in the process. The gas company is an independent entity and the City does not have control over their public communication.

Eric Eby clarified that the parking restriction would be enforced from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Parking would be free after 7 p.m.

Ted Gray expressed his support for the metered parking stating the street is public.

Mary Lou McElwain expressed her opposition to the metered parking because it changes the character of Sheafe Street.

City Manager, John Bohenko, stated if a meter was not installed it would be inconsistent with policy due to the downtown location. Brad Lown expressed the idea that metering might manage the space and improve the issue.

George Dodge, 14 and 16 Sheafe Street, said he would like the City to leave Sheafe Street as it is until the City adopts a comprehensive residential parking plan. City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned for the matter to be tabled. Ron Cypher seconded. **Vote 9-0, to table the item until staff review is completed.**

Staff to review all the metered spaces in the area of Sheafe Street. Present data in a map format. Provide a PowerPoint presentation on where meters start and stop. Staff will also investigate making Sheafe Street a pedestrian way.

B. Proposed Bike Corral siting for Summer 2015 – Juliet Walker provided details on the new bike corral location. If approved, it will be located in front of the Portsmouth Gas Light. The business is very supportive. It will occupy one parking space. It would be for the peak demand biking season. Dates are flexible and if necessary the committee can put defined dates on project. The proposed location in a metered space is considered a pilot project. No specific design identified, but the standard design allows for 10 bikes.

Mary Lou McElwain expresses support for bike plan. Brad Lown expresses support in order to encourage bike use. Ron Cypher opposes the use of a parking space for this project. Mr. Cypher stated that Harold Whitehouse, who is absent, also opposes the use of a parking space and asked him to convey his opinion.

City Manager, John Bohenko, motioned to support the bike corral as presented. Peter Rice seconded. **Vote 7-1, to approve the bike corral as presented. Ron Cypher opposing.** James Heinz, Deputy Fire Chief, was not present for vote.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doug Roberts, 247 Richards Ave, discussed adding parking in ways discussed by Rick Chellman. By adding spaces, the City will have more money for other improvements related to streets. He experienced road rage because of the unmarked left-turn lane at Maplewood and the railroad tracks. Islington Street section near White Heron is in need of sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic calming device.

Peter Rice stated that the Public Works Department is currently negotiating a design scope with an engineering firm to look at the Islington Street corridor.

Peter Vandermark, 86 Ridges Court, speaking on behalf of RiverRun Bookstore, would like Fleet Street to be considered as a pilot spot for parking. There may be three or four parking spaces available.

Kelly Shaw, 892 Banfield Road, expressed concern for the need for a crosswalk at the Wal-Mart intersection. In regard to the Banfield and Ocean Road matter, residents would like the speed limit to be 25 mph, install blinking lights at Heritage and Constitution, more of a police presence, electronic speeding sign, guard rails, reflectors, and shoulders on the roads. Ms. Shaw restated signage recommendations for the Water Country exiting traffic.

Captain Frank Warchol responded that the electric speeding sign could not be dedicated to a specific road and the police presence must be in areas of safety for the officers.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL:

- A. Status update on new informational signs for handicap parking time restrictions in High Occupancy Meter (HOM) zone- The signs have been fabricated and will be installed soon. Then warnings will be issued before ticketing begins.
- B. Traffic signal malfunction at Lafayette Road/Springbrook Circle/Southgate Plaza intersection – The traffic signal at this location is state owned and is not working properly. State is responsible to fix signal.
- C. Guiding Parking Principles for Central Business Districts- Eric will be compiling this information for committee members. City Manager, John Bohenko, suggested staff compile documentation into binders that are available for committee use at each meeting. Parking principles and parking ordinances should be included in materials.
- D. Resident parking – City is addressing the issue in a methodical way and will report back on the process.
- E. Ceres Street- Mary Lou McElwain expressed traffic concerns on Ceres. Peter Rice stated the most impacted section of Ceres Street is privately owned with public access. These issues will be handled through the Construction Management and Mitigation Plan by the Legal and Planning Departments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - At 9:28 a.m., voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Chastain
Secretary to the Committee

City of Portsmouth

Parking Related Revenues

Unaudited

Percentage of Fiscal Year Complete 83.33%
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Totals Thru
April-15

FY 15

	FY TOTALS	BUDGETED	% of Budget
Parking Meter Fees	1,493,998.07	1,650,000.00	90.55%
Parking Meter Space Rentals	109,035.00	40,000.00	272.59%
Meter In Vehicle	70,724.95	40,000.00	176.81%
Parking Garage Revenue	1,489,359.87	1,950,000.00	76.38%
Garage Passes	926,218.00	960,000.00	96.48%
Parking Validation	10,700.00	6,000.00	178.33%
Pass Reinstatement	3,020.00	1,500.00	201.33%
Vaughan St Parking Facility	16,250.00	15,000.00	108.33%
Parking Violations	619,455.33	780,000.00	79.42%
Boot Removal Fee	33,100.00	12,000.00	275.83%
Summons Admin Fee	925.00	5,000.00	18.50%
Total FY 15 Parking	4,772,786.22	5,459,500.00	87.42%

	BUDGETED	
	(3,047,195.00)	Transfer to Parking Fund
	2,412,305.00	Funds Remaining in Gen Fund