

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A
CITY HALL, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 1 JUNKINS AVENUE

Members of the public also had the opportunity to join the meeting via Zoom

8:30 AM

February 6th, 2025

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Andrew Bagley called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

[00:04:58] Mark Syracuse nominated Andrew Bagley to serve as Committee Chair, and for Erica Wygonik to serve as Vice Committee Chair. Peter Rice seconded the nomination, and the nominations were approved unanimously.

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Chairman Andrew Bagley
Public Works Director Peter Rice
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Stephanie Casella, Planning Department
Erica Wygonik
Jane Mitchell-Pate
Mark Syracuse
Mary Lou McElwain
Dave Allen (alternate)

Members Absent:

Fire Chief William McQuillen

City Staff Present:

City Engineer Eric Eby
Parking Director Ben Fletcher
Associate Engineer Tyler Reese
Administrative Assistant Jefferson Lane

III. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:06:01] Mary Lou McElwain moved to accept the financial report dated December 31st, 2024, seconded by Public Works Director Peter Rice. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

[00:06:50] There was one speaker: Tyler Garzo spoke regarding the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's upcoming project on Route 1 and asked the committee to support a request of the State to lower the speed limit on Lafayette Road from 35 MPH to 30 MPH.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

(No public comment during Committee discussion without Committee approval.)

- A.** [00:08:28] 293 Maplewood Avenue, driveway permit request, by resident. Erica Wygonik moved to conduct site visit and place on March meeting agenda, seconded by Peter Rice. The motion passed unanimously.
- B.** [00:08:54] Chapter 7, Article VI, Section 7,601: Limited Hours Loading Zones. Request to change loading zone hours on Penhallow Street to allow public parking starting at 3 PM Mondays through Saturdays, by Chairman Bagley. Peter Rice moved to change loading zone hours for the Penhallow Street loading zone from 6 AM – 7 PM, to 6 AM -3 PM, Mondays through Saturdays and 6:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Sundays, with Erica Wygonik seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C.** [00:11:49] Bow Street, request to remove parking space to allow for monument for Royal Governor Benning Wentworth tomb, by Portsmouth Historical Society. Erica Wygonik moved to conduct a site visit and place on the March meeting agenda, with Mary Lou McElwain seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** [00:12:34] State Street, request to eliminate parking space at 481 State Street, by resident. Peter Rice moved to eliminate metered parking space in front of 481 State Street, and to add the first two spaces on the opposite side of State Street west of Middle Street to Zone 1507, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. The motion passed 9-0.
- B.** [00:18:10] Junkins Avenue at Pleasant Street, concerns regarding sight distance looking up Pleasant Street, by resident. Peter Rice moved to place the item on file, seconded by Erica Wygonik. The motion passed unanimously.
- C.** [00:19:22] Broad Street, request for traffic calming measures, by residents. Peter Rice moved to place the item on file for discussion purposes, seconded by Dave Allen. There was discussion on residents' desire to slow vehicle speeds on Broad Street and methods of accomplishing that, and desire to inform the residents of Broad Street in proposing what methods of traffic calming they would like to see. Peter Rice rescinded his motion, and Erica Wygonik moved to add this item to the March 2025 PTS Agenda to give the neighborhood time to be notified and express their desired methods for traffic calming. Mary Lou McElwain seconded the motion, and the motion passed 8-1, with Peter Rice voting against the motion.

Committee Chair Andrew Bagley left the meeting at 8:53 AM. Vice Chair Erica Wygonik took over as acting chair at this time.

- D.** [00:27:40] Union Street, report back on request for one way traffic between State Street and Austin Street. Peter Rice moved to place the item on file, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. The motion passed unanimously.
- E.** [00:29:36] 2 Russell Street, extension of approval of on-street parking and loading zone changes, originally granted January 2024 as set forth in the amended plan in the packet. Mary Lou McElwain moved to renew approval of on-street parking and loading zone changes for the 2 Russell Street project contingent upon the execution of a Site Review Agreement. Changes to take effect when parking spaces and loading zones are ready for public use and the ordinance will be amended through the annual omnibus. The motion was seconded by

Dave Allen and passed unanimously.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [00:33:14] Police monthly accident report
- B. [00:34:01] Speed feedback sign draft City policy.
- C. [00:35:43] Bicycle Passing Clearance signage
- D. [00:37:15] Parking matrix

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

[00:43:46] Eric Eby announced that the Maplewood Avenue bridge would be closing again for construction in the spring of 2025 and would open to one-lane traffic inbound for a period following that closure. Mary Lou McElwain asked for any updates regarding a committee item from 2024 regarding the installation of a stop sign on Marston Avenue at South Street.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Erica Wygonik adjourned the meeting at 9:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Reese
Associate Engineer, Department of Public Works