

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: August 19, 2021 (after 9:00 a.m.) – August 23, 2021 (before 5:00 p.m.)

August 23, 2021 Council Meeting

New content:

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Tamara Henderson ([tgh.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:tgh.henderson@gmail.com)) on Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 13:30:14

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address: 1177 Sagamore Ave, unit #2, Portsmouth, NH 03801

comments: I am sending a note of support for the development of the proposed community garden located at the Rt 33 park and ride in Portsmouth. Those residents living on small housing lots and those living in condos or townhouses would benefit from having public garden plots available for growing fresh vegetables. There is also an opportunity to grow organic vegetables for Gather and other food pantries in our community. One of the largest capital expenditures to get the garden established is extending the water line from the city main water line to the garden. Please consider this a worthy investment for the city to make in support of the broader community. We have other large expenditures such as fencing and building of garden beds that we are actively fundraising for. The water line expense would ensure that we can get this project completed for the 2022 gardening season.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tamara Henderson

vice-chair, PCG steering committee

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Beth Hartnett ([beth.hartnett@gmail.com](mailto:beth.hartnett@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 06:22:32

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address: 29 Sherburne Avenue

comments: Hello, I joined the Steering Committee of the Portsmouth Community Garden and, while I am not really a gardener, I love the idea of maintaining open space, encouraging outdoor activities, building community and supporting organizations who in turn support food insecurity problems. Our committee has put in hundreds of hours so far and remain hopeful ... but we need your help. Please fund the ~\$7K to install the water line. We will work hard to raise all of the other funds required and to make this a community space with benefits for the entire community. Thank you!

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jill Capobianco ([Jillcapo@yahoo.com](mailto:Jillcapo@yahoo.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 07:00:26

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address: 130 Willard Ave

comments: I support the Portsmouth Community Garden and funding the water line. This will help the physical and mental health of our community. Thank you for your service!

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by betsy scott ([Betsyscott99@gmail.com](mailto:Betsyscott99@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 07:07:30

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address: 94 Mendum Ave

comments: I am in favor of the Portsmouth community garden.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ollire F Lane ([fwdthnk@gmail.com](mailto:fwdthnk@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:00:31

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address: 306 Hanover Street, Apt. 2

comments: Hello! I'm writing in support of funding the water line needed for the Portsmouth Community Garden. This is a vital resource in order for this garden to become a reality, so I'm hopeful that my City Council will choose to help make this valuable asset "flow-er" and grow!

Most sincerely, Ollire Lane

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Pat Shea ([Pat11900@gmail.com](mailto:Pat11900@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:05:55

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address: 69 Middle rd

comments: Please support providing water to the new community gardens.

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Murphy ([Kmurphy@nhtrialattorneys.com](mailto:Kmurphy@nhtrialattorneys.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:06:00

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address: 579 Sagamore Ave

comments: I am writing to request that the Council approve the water line for this project It will be a great asset to the community Thank you

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Ken Goldman ([krgoldman@comcast.net](mailto:krgoldman@comcast.net)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:18:22

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address: 271 Islington Street

comments: City Councilors,

This is a follow-up to an email I sent on August 4th after the August 2nd City Council meeting. I never heard back from any City Councilors, so I thought I would send another email to restate my thoughts. At the August 2nd City Council Meeting, I was disappointed in the discussion prior to the vote on the Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) Pilot.

I have heard many times leading up to the City Council meeting that "this is just a pilot program". I subsequently did some research on the meaning of a pilot program. Here is what I found (capitalization is mine):

"A pilot program, also called a feasibility study or experimental trial, is a small-scale, short-term experiment that helps an organization learn how a large-scale project might work in practice...Typically, a pilot program begins with a proposal THAT LISTS OBJECTIVES of the pilot program and documents how the program will be carried out. The documentation should also provide a timeline for the pilot and METRICS FOR HOW SUCCESS WILL BE DETERMINED."

I was surprised and disappointed by the lack of discussion of, or support for, Councilor Lazenby's recommendation of setting metrics for this pilot program. As you can see above, there is no value to a pilot program if you don't lay out the objectives for the program and the metrics that will determine success or failure, or whether the program was even needed in the first place out ahead of time.

Have specific objectives and metrics been established?

Here is data I know at this time, with some questions:

1. According to Ben Fletcher, before the NPP was implemented, the parking occupancy rates in Islington Creek were typically far below the 85% level that normally indicates the need for such a program. What is the metric for occupancy rate going forward?

2. One of the justifications for this program was the impact of downtown employees parking in Islington Creek. We now know that the city sells between 200 and 300 passes each month for the Downtown Employee Parking Program. How will this information be used to determine the impact of employee parking in Islington Creek, and the need to continue the NPP Pilot based on this data?

3. In 2019 the neighborhood was polled to determine if this program was truly desired by the Islington Creek Neighborhood. This poll fell short of the 75% approval rating required. Before implementing this program in 2021, no such poll was taken. Therefore, I respectfully request that, immediately after the August 23rd City Council Meeting, the level of neighborhood approval required to continue the program be specified and disseminated to the neighborhood. I also request that, prior to the end of the six-month pilot program, the entire Islington Creek Neighborhood be polled on whether or not the residents want the program to continue, and that the City abide by the results of this poll.

Again, I respectfully request that, if they have not already done so, the City Council work with the Parking Department to set out the specific objectives and metrics for the NPP and disseminate them immediately. I also request that the City Council abide by the answers the data and the polling provide. Should the data not support the need for the NPP, the City Council should not grant waivers to continue the program based on the personal feelings or anecdotal observations of some residents.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Ken Goldman  
271 Islington Street  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Nancy Severn ([nbsevern@gmail.com](mailto:nbsevern@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:37:00

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address: 347 Sherburne Road

comments: I support the funding of the water main installation.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Maria Sillari ([msillari14@gmail.com](mailto:msillari14@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 08:57:30

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address: 171 Jones Avenue, Portsmouth, NH, USA

comments: I support the Portsmouth Community Garden and the funding for the water line.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Barbara Collier ([barbaradin@aol.com](mailto:barbaradin@aol.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 10:08:57

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address: 399 Richards Ave.

comments: Please support the Community Garden by facilitating the installation of a waterline. Without water, the garden can't even begin to be realized! Thanks for your careful attention to this project.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Brian K Gibb ([bkgibb@gmail.com](mailto:bkgibb@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 10:09:03

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address: 348 Maplewood Ave

comments: I am supportive of this investment.  
Thanks,  
Brian  
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mark ([mark.chrisos@gmail.com](mailto:mark.chrisos@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 10:35:23

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address: 150 us rt 1 byp

comments: I strongly support the community garden initiative  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sarah Cullen ([sscullen@comcast.net](mailto:sscullen@comcast.net)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 15:40:32

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address: 76 Mendum Avenue

comments: I completely support Portsmouth City Council funding the installation of water lines at the community garden being constructed for the town of Portsmouth.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Lynda Schmidt ([lynda.schmidt7@gmail.com](mailto:lynda.schmidt7@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 15:49:02

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address: 74 Cabot Street

comments: Would like to publically state my support to move forward with the community garden - specifically funding for the needed waterline. Very excited for the opportunities this project will bring to our small city! Thank you to all who are working hard to make it happen.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Karen Dawson ([Kdawson0309@gmail.com](mailto:Kdawson0309@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 17:28:48

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address: 648 Lincoln Ave

comments: I support funding for water line installation.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Tracey Clarkson ([tbc63@comcast.net](mailto:tbc63@comcast.net)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 19:17:11

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address: 85 Lawrence St.

comments: PLEASE fund the water line to support the Community Garden!!!! With all the development in town, it is more important than ever to create and support these opportunities for community based green spaces. Thank you.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Devan Quinn ([devanquinn@gmail.com](mailto:devanquinn@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 20:39:29

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address: PO Box 361

comments: I support the Portsmouth Community Garden and the water line! Please support funding for the water line. Thank you!  
-Devan Quinn  
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Glenna Visco Weber ([Glenna.visco@gmail.com](mailto:Glenna.visco@gmail.com)) on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 21:06:11

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address: 170 W Cullumber

comments: I support the funding of the water line installation.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Roddy Cole ([260broad@gmail.com](mailto:260broad@gmail.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 06:22:19

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address: 260 BROAD ST

comments: Our community is hopeful that this council will support the development of a Community Garden by voting to fund the installation of a water line. To do so would:

1. Help improve air and soil quality
2. Increase biodiversity of plants and animals
3. Improve food security
4. Reduce neighborhood waste through composting
5. Positively impact the urban micro-climate
6. Increase access to fresh foods
7. Increase physical activity through garden maintenance activities
8. Improve dietary habits through education
9. Increase fruit and vegetable intake
10. Reduce risk of obesity and obesity-related diseases
11. Improve mental health and promote relaxation

Social ties are important to the wellbeing of the people in our community. Please vote YES.  
Thank you  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Christopher Cole ([ccole@sheehan.com](mailto:ccole@sheehan.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 06:25:19

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address: 260 BROAD ST

comments: I write in support of the Portsmouth Community Garden initiative and urge the Council to vote in favor of its development, including the funding necessary for the extension of water to the project. This is the sort of initiative that should be non-controversial, supported by City residents, and by this Council. Vote yes.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Allan M Moses ([uncleallan@aol.com](mailto:uncleallan@aol.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 07:33:09

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address: 2075 Lafayette Road, Unit #B27

comments: I am a supporter of the community gardens and clearly support the City assisting in the water line installation. If I had the skills to dig and connect, I would do this myself. As a retired, single man, I am more than willing to share the fruits of OUR labor,  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Cassidy Furbush ([Cassidyfurbush@gmail.com](mailto:Cassidyfurbush@gmail.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 10:02:35

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address: 1291 34th street #20

comments: I support the addition of a water line to the community garden.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sheila Shea ([Scshea68@gmail.com](mailto:Scshea68@gmail.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 14:34:58

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address: 171 Whipple Road

comments: please consider finishing for a the water line installation for the community farm for the benefit of all.  
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Jacquelyn Drury ([j96drury@gmail.com](mailto:j96drury@gmail.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 17:07:47

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address: 96 Cabot st apt 6 Portsmouth NH 03801

comments: I support the funding to bring this community garden to life  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Stephannie Lowe ([wolflvr@gmail.com](mailto:wolflvr@gmail.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 17:44:28

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address: 22 Wedgewood Rd

comments: I want to right in my support of funding for the Portsmouth Community Graden. A community garden will only enhance our great city and is something we are lacking. Using city funds to help with the building of the garden I fully support.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Rachel Colbus ([Candidmo@yahoo.com](mailto:Candidmo@yahoo.com)) on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 20:21:03

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address: 152 Blue Heron Dr

comments: I support the Portsmouth Community Garden and the funding for the water line. Thank you.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by marie kelleher ([mariekelleher297@aol.com](mailto:mariekelleher297@aol.com)) on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 05:31:57

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address: 297 Pevery Hill Rd

comments: I would support a community garden her in Portsmouth  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Christina Dubin ([christinadubin@gmail.com](mailto:christinadubin@gmail.com)) on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 12:44:40

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address: 336 Miller Ave.

comments: I am writing in my support for the Portsmouth Community Garden and the funding for the water line.  
includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mike Hartnett ([mike.hartnett@outlook.com](mailto:mike.hartnett@outlook.com)) on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 17:49:05

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address: 29 Sherburne Ave

comments: Hi...My wife and a team of volunteers have been working to establish a Community Garden here in Portsmouth. We're excited about this potential new addition to our City, and hopeful that we can all work together to bring it to fruition. I'd like to respectfully request that the City Council consider funding ~\$7K to install the required water line. The team is working hard to raise the other necessary funds, and we will contribute to that effort as well. Thanks in advance for considering the request. Cheers, Mike  
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Johanna Hartnett ([johanna.hartnett@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.hartnett@gmail.com)) on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at 18:01:42

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address: 29 Sherburne Avenue

comments: Hi,

This is my first time writing to the City Council. I've been watching my Mom, who isn't even a gardener, and a bunch of other community members work non-stop to get a community garden going in Portsmouth. I know they have a lot more to do, but if you can fund the water line, it will definitely help and show that the city supports this type of community activity! Thank you!

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Matthew Glenn and the SABR board ([matt.glenn@seacoastbikes.org](mailto:matt.glenn@seacoastbikes.org)) on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 07:33:49

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address: 34 Harrison

comments: Honorable Mayor and Councilors,

Mr. Tom Morgan's August 17th letter to council on bicycle lanes and city wide bike infrastructure design brings up some excellent points which we at Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders can whole-heartedly agree with. He lays out the problems very well with photographs of 111 Maplewood and Market Street, and we can and should do better. He also calls out a "vocal lobby of bike enthusiasts" who are "less risk averse" in his last paragraph, so I hope you will listen to our response, further context, and many points of agreement.

The risk to bike riders of being "doored" in the currently configured Maplewood bike lane (between the Mill Pond and rail crossing) is very real as Mr. Morgan explains, and we were as disappointed as him that after repaving the paint has gone down just the same as before, with a substandard "door zone" bike lane. Your planning department webpage shows extensive Complete Streets planning still in progress for this portion of Maplewood dating from 2014 and November 2017 through May 2019, here:

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/planportsmouth/maplewood-ave-downtown-complete-street-project>

The most recent preliminary design from 2019 shows sidewalk widening, on-street parking, street trees and lighting, crosswalk improvements, signal upgrades, traffic calming, and new \*buffered\* bike lanes on both sides from the North Mill Pond to Congress/Islington:

[http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/MaplewoodAvePreliminaryDesignSubmission\\_FINAL\\_053119.pdf](http://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/MaplewoodAvePreliminaryDesignSubmission_FINAL_053119.pdf)

Here are two images of conceptual cross sections (

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19qxXj3oL2bYGQUwsBwUdxj8DvgPLwAnvpPP7Ixm73-o/edit?usp=sharing>), and you'll see the additional painted buffer designed to keep bike riders out of the door zone. In places without on-street parking, this painted buffer is on the other side to provide additional distance from moving traffic (more like the excellent new lanes on outer Maplewood, our newest Complete Streets project).

Our position at SABR aligns with most professionals-- that painted buffers aren't as good as real separation or physical protection (bollards or curbing), but they can work on streets with slower speeds, and are a big improvement over no bike accommodations at all. If Mr Morgan has an even better proposal, let's hear it and let's discuss it through a public process. We agree that you should ask the PTSC and your planning department for a status update on this larger complete streets plan for Maplewood-- the city webpage still has final engineering and construction "TBD", and it's been a long wait.

Turning to his critiques of Market Street, we again can agree whole-heartedly. A painted shoulder (or "gutter") bike lane next to multiple lanes of fast moving traffic with no protection is not a place to bring your children or grandchildren. The "sandwich" lane he shows in a photograph is a reminder for drivers to look for bikes and an attempt to reduce the many "right hook" crashes, but offers very little real protection. This project began in 2008, with the last public meeting in December of 2013, and I don't know SABR's engagement with it. Given the wide ROW on Market street, it's a real disappointment that fully protected bike lanes or a good two-way sidepath don't seem to have been considered. The new Bohenko park does allow bike riding, but connections on both sides of it are problematic. While the street trees are beautiful, this was a missed opportunity.

Getting back to "doorings", the record still needs to be set straight on Middle Street, which was a very different design from Maplewood. One bicyclist was struck by a passenger side door, but it appears the driver had parked illegally in a place where they could not have been if the flex posts had been there as originally designed. Toole Design looked closely at it and came up



with a few small but excellent safety recommendations which this council then chose to ignore on a 5-4 vote. We firmly believe that the (council led) removal of the bike lane on those five blocks has made it considerably less safe for riders, drivers, and pedestrians by creating a very wide lane of faster moving traffic. When Councilor Huda stated that Middle Street should have lanes “just like all the other bike lanes” in the city-- does she mean a driver door zone lane like Maplewood? What we have now-- asking bike riders to use another, longer route on streets with no bike facilities-- is not a solution. What is Mr. Morgan’s proposed solution?

Bicycle facility design standards across the country are always changing, mostly for the better, as are laws. It is true that Massachusetts currently only requires motorists to pass bicyclists “at a safe distance”, but a three foot law similar to ours was introduced by the Baker administration last April, and there are many excellent road improvements happening all over that state including in towns and cities as small as ours. There is great information on current bike lane design here:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/boston-bikes/better-bike-lanes>

Blame cannot be simply placed on “Massachusetts experts” or on riders of a certain age who are “less risk averse”. We at SABR represent riders of all ages and abilities, and are fully in support of better designs that work for all. We appreciate Mr. Morgan for highlighting the scary statistics about the risks of higher speed traffic, and his calls for transformative change. In fact, the majority of this council has been moving in the opposite direction-- fighting the planning department’s very best efforts around bike safety by both removing our only fully protected bicycle lane, and then nearly hijacking the traffic-separated multi-use path planned for Peverly Hill. It’s easy to complain about problems, but we need to work together around solutions.

Let’s have a robust discussion around bike infrastructure, and let’s do much better.

Signed,

Matthew Glenn and the Board of Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders <http://SeacoastBikes.org> [info@seacoastbikes.org](mailto:info@seacoastbikes.org)

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Sharon Bottner ([sharonbottner@comcast.net](mailto:sharonbottner@comcast.net)) on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 09:28:43

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address: 2 Carriers Cove

comments: I strongly support the community garden! thank you.

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Allan Pechner Jr. ([portcitycoin@gmail.com](mailto:portcitycoin@gmail.com)) on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 13:31:25

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address: 399 Maplewood ave, Ste 4

comments: I am in favor of having an Audit Committee to oversee the process of choosing and Independent Auditor. I understand that it is the City Council’s responsibility to approve the audit firm. We are lucky that we have people in our community with financial expertise willing to volunteer their time to help oversee the process. It would be inappropriate for members of city management or finance to sit on an audit committee that is supposed to be independent of management.

includeInRecords: on

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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Rich Dipentima ([rdipentima@gmail.com](mailto:rdipentima@gmail.com)) on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 13:47:05

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address: 16 Dunlin Way

comments: In support of Councilor Splain's agenda item regarding CIVID-19, I would request consideration the following actions to help prevent the coming fall surge of COVID-19 that the Givernor said could be worse than anything we have seen.

1. Require face masks in schools and all public buildings by all entering those facilities.
2. Consider requiring vaccine of all City employees, including teachers. Also require vaccine for all students age 12 and older.

I am aware of the HB 220 signed by the Governor. The City should challenge that law based on 2 facts. The FDA has given full approval to the Pfizer vaccine, as such it is not an emergency use authorization any longer, as when the law was passed. The above bill exempted all other school vaccines currently required under RSA 141-C. Second, the State has left mask mandates up to Individual cities and towns, why not vaccinations? This represents a double standard with regard to local control that is unjustified and discriminatory.

Thank you for your consideration.

includeInRecords: on



Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Joanne Ravgiala ([jorav@icloud.com](mailto:jorav@icloud.com)) on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 15:32:52

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address: 1275 Maplewood Ave #23

comments: With so many new multistory buildings having been recently constructed and several more under consideration. I am deeply concerned about the lack of green space. Considering how quickly climate change is occurring, it seems our current land use zoning regulations need updating so they required more green space to help absorb carbon monoxide and provide an over all healthier atmosphere.

We need to continue to protect wetland and not CUP the 100 ft. buffer zone.

includeInRecords: on

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