

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, April 18, 2002
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Alex Hanson called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

City Councilor Alex Hanson, Chairman	Ralph DiBernardo, Member
John Burke, Public Works Dept.	Ted Gray, Member
Deputy Police Chief Mike Magnant	Herb Bunnell, Member
Acting Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	Ronald Cypher, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Hank Greenberg, Member

Also present was Lucy Tillman of the Planning Department and Everett Kern of the Public Works Department.

Alex Hanson thanked Ralph DiBernardo for volunteering to be Co-Chair of the Committee filling the vacancy of Patrick Harrigan.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion by Deputy Police Chief Mike Magnant to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee (TSC) meeting of March 21, 2002. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

(A) **Lincoln Avenue – Truck Parking** – John Burke stated that a resident on Lincoln Avenue expressed concern that there is a large tow truck parking in front of his residence. John will discuss with property owner and give a report back at the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

3548 Lafayette Road – Proposed Restaurant and Bar @ Wren’s Nest Motel – This matter was previously tabled because the plans were not complete. Gary Bowmar, 3548 Lafayette Road, owner of Wren’s next referred to the newest set of plans dated April 3. Mr. Bowmar stated that he is seeking a variance to allow 20-foot two-way aisles where 24-feet is

required. Mr. Bowmar stated that there will be a 60-seat restaurant open to the public, serving a 2-hour lunch and dinner.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to approve the revised plan as submitted. Seconded by Ted Gray.

Ralph DBiernardo asked whether or not truckers frequented the Inn. Mr. Bowmar answered that no large trailer trucks would be accommodated. John Burke asked about the one-way condition in back and how would someone know the proper direction. Mr. Bowmar stated that signage will be put up. John Burke asked him to show the signs on the plan as the Planning Board will want to see this.

Ralph DiBernardo requested that the motion be amended to include signage on the plan with the approval of the City Engineer. Motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Islington/Bartlett Streets Intersection – Traffic/safety concerns at CVS driveway** – Referral from Councilor Grasso. John Burke stated that the City has plans to “T-up” this intersection with Jewell Court, but in the meantime the Councilor is concerned with the conflicts between the CVS and Store 24 parking lots. He added that the curb stops between the two parking lots have been removed.

Lucy Tillman stated that the site plan approved in the late 1980’s required curb stops in front of all parking spaces on the Store 24 lot. Two or three of the curb stops are now missing.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to refer this matter to Jason Page for enforcement. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Mike Magnant. Motion passed.

- (B) **915 Sagamore Avenue – Proposed Building Expansion with Additional Off-Street Parking** – Jay Gingrich, owner and resident of 513 Marcy Street was present. He stated that the plans have not changed since March 15th with no additions, deletions or corrections.

MOTION made by Herb Bunnell to approve the plan as submitted. Ted Gray seconded. Motion Passed.

Herb Bunnell referred to the on-site review and stated that everything seemed to work fine in the parking lot and that there was plenty of room to back up without doing so in the street.

- (C) **Porter Street – Proposed residential Development** – Mr. Eric Weinrieb of Altus Engineering spoke representing 325 State St. He presented the Committee with revised plans of the 11 proposed townhouse condominium units located on Porter St. At the on-site review, there were concerns with the proposed 16-foot wide roadway and the proposed elimination of four parking spaces. Subsequent to that meeting the plan was revised for Phase I. An 18-foot wide travel lane with curbing will be maintained allowing the four parking spaces to remain. A 10-foot travel lane will be provided. The applicant will reduce the width of the proposed brick sidewalk on the north side of Porter St. from 6-feet to 5-feet and reduced the green space proposed by 1 foot. The existing stop sign at the intersection of Church Street will remain. The utility poles will come down in Phase II. He stated that he had met with PSNH and there is a new pole proposed on the south side of Porter Street near the second parking space. He stated he will be meeting with Dave Allen, Dept. Public Works Director and petition the City Council to approve the License Agreement for this pole. He will also need City Council approval to use part of the sidewalk for greenspace and it is the condominium association’s responsibility to maintain this space. The pole will be temporary for Phase I and all poles will be underground in phase II.

Alex Hanson stated that under the Licensing Agreement, which is temporary until Phase II, all poles and all greenspace are to be maintained by, and the responsibility of, the Condominium Association. The Acting Fire Chief stated that the street width should be sufficient for maneuvering. John Burke stated that to provide additional maneuverability, it is acceptable to stripe the street for an 11-foot lane and 7-foot parking stall.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to approve the project as submitted with the recommendations from on-site. Ted Gray seconded. Motion passed.

- (D) **Market Square – Review of Regulatory Signage** - John Burke referred to the confluence of Market Street, Daniel Street and Pleasant Street at Market Square. John Burke noted that through the traffic studies for the redevelopment of the Bank of NH site, it had been noted by the applicant’s traffic engineer that the intersection does not meet standards for signage under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The three streets merge in the square without any one under STOP condition. It was recommended that both Market Street and Pleasant Street be under stop control condition with Daniel as the through street. John noted that most people do come to a stop or “rolling stop” at Market and Pleasant anyway. It was asked whether change was necessary given that historically, the intersection has not been a problem. Steve Parkinson added that if a deficiency is brought to the City’s attention, and something should happen, the City could be liable.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to approve appropriate stop sign installation at the intersection of Market Street and Pleasant Street at Market Square. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (E) **Truck Size & Weight on NH Interstate Highways** – This was a City Council referral regarding a letter received from Steve Howard of the NH Coalition for Safe Roads requesting a resolution opposing increased truck size and weights on Interstate Highways in New Hampshire. As Mr. Howard was not present, the matter will be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. Alex Hanson asked Elaine to prepare a letter inviting Mr. Howard to attend the next Traffic & Safety Committee meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Election of a Vice-Chairman** - Alex Hanson nominated Ralph DiBernardo as Vice-Chairman of the Traffic & Safety Committee.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to appoint Ralph DiBernardo as Vice-Chairman of the Traffic & Safety Committee. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) **Woodbury Avenue Car Wash** – Chairman Alex Hanson stated that this item was a referral from the City Council. A License Agreement is sought for improvements in the City Right-of-Way. Alex stated that he had a telephone conversation yesterday with Mr. Ervin Fazekas, owner of Mr. Bubbles Car Wash. Mr. Ervin Fazekas addressed the Committee. He stated that he has owned the car wash at 1725 Woodbury Avenue for 14 years. He explained the traffic pattern and control he uses to keep traffic from queuing on Woodbury Avenue. He added that he would like to enhance the property with some greenery and to better define the traffic pattern to make the area look nicer and help queuing of traffic. Alex Hanson referred to calls received from Oriental Gardens in the winter time that ice from the car wash runs down the hill causing a problem. Mr. Fazekas stated that he makes an effort to keep the ice down.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to approve the plan as presented. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

Alex Hanson stated that the recommendation now goes to City Council for approval with the minutes and Mr. Fazekas will then be all set.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____