

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 AM – Thursday, March 20, 2003  
City Hall - Council Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**II: ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Alex Hanson, Chair, Asst. Mayor	Fire Chief Chris LeClaire
Ralph DiBernardo, Vice-Chair	Ted Gray, Member
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation	Herb Bunnell
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Police Captain Dave Young	Hank Greenberg, Member

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee (TSC) meeting of January 20, 2003. Seconded by Ted Gray.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- (A) **Lafayette Road/Bluefish Boulevard** – Homeowner Request to replace **MERGE signs with YIELD signs on U.S. Route 1.** **MOTION** by Ralph DiBernardo to place this item on next month’s on-site. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion Passed.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) **2859 Lafayette Road Car Wash** – John Burke reported that he met with the Fire Chief, Police Department, Dave Holden and the business owner – who agreed to have a person on-site at peak hours and also provide the Police Dept. a contact name and number.

**MOTION** by Ted Gray to accept report and place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**(A) Water Country – Proposed Parking & Circulation Improvements.**

Ralph DiBernardo referred to the on-site review. He stated that the Committee looked at the plans and the area; the applicant answered all our questions and no one had any specific concerns. The only issue we needed an explanation on was the drop off area, which was much clearer after we realized it is not intended for a public drop off area, but for employees.

Ted Gray asked if there would be adequate signage to eliminate confusion as to where people should park. Dick Samuels of Water Country responded that adequate directional signage would be provided all along the entrance road as depicted on the plans.

**MOTION** by Ralph DiBernardo to accept the plan as presented. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. **MOTION PASSED.**

**(B) International Drive/Paddy’s Restaurant – Request for Crosswalk –**

John Burke reported that some of the tenants of the office buildings are crossing International Drive between the signals at Manchester Square. The proper thing to do is to use the pedestrian signals that are there. John stated that it is a very short walk to the pedestrian signals and that a mid-block crossing is not warranted. People are doing it because they can still get a gap in the traffic from the signals. Over time this gap will likely disappear as traffic continues to grow at the Tradeport. John Burke recommended denying this request as it is a safety issue.

**MOTION** made by Ron Cypher to deny request as presented. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. **MOTION PASSED.**

**(C) Church Street/Porter Street – Police Dept. Proposal to Move Stop Control at Intersection from Church St. to Porter St. –**

Ralph DiBernardo reported that the proposal was made because the building is going to create a blind corner. He asked John Burke if it would be an appropriate place to have a stop sign in both directions, because it would be just as blind the other way. John Burke responded that the MUTCD advises that stop-control be provided on the lower volume street, which in this case is Porter Street.

Fire Chief LeClaire asked if there was a crosswalk? The Committee agreed that there was a need for a crosswalk across Church Street.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to move the stop sign to Porter Street and to install a crosswalk across Church St. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Dave Young. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ted Gray opposed.

- (D) **Proposed COAST Bus Stops – New Lafayette Road Trolley Service** – Alex Hanson stated that a sub-committee had been formed to review the stops in the field. The Committee includes John Burke, Ralph DiBernardo, Ron Cypher and a Police Department representative. The Committee would meet at Public Works on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to appoint a sub-committee. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. **MOTION PASSED.**

- (E) **Woodbury Avenue/BJ's Fueling Facility – Proposed Parking & Circulation Improvements** - John Burke reported that the Department had recently installed a new signal timing plan on Woodbury Ave. that includes physical coordination of the traffic signals. BJ's will be building a third lane coming out of the main entrance to mitigate some of their back ups into their site. They have also asked the Planning Department if they can switch the direction of traffic for the fuel lines to reduce traffic backing up to the entrance. John Burke stated that BJ's will have signs and cones and 3 people directing traffic outside booths. Steve Parkinson expressed concern that the clockwise movement through the fueling facility added a conflict where entering and exiting vehicles pass. The Committee felt that a stop sign was needed at this location. The new circulation pattern does provide additional queuing length to prevent backups at the entrance. John Burke recommended the proposal be implemented as a pilot program with the placement of appropriate stop signs and cones.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to accept recommendation of a pilot program with appropriate stop signs and cones. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. **MOTION PASSED.**

**VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- (A) ***Crossroads House Pedestrian and Safety Improvements*** – Portsmouth High School student Tanya Hoffman attended the meeting to discuss progress on the Crossroads House issue. John Burke stated that the Community Development Dept. is readying a grant to construct new sidewalks along US 1. He is hoping to hear soon on the timing of the grant.

***Parking on South Street***– Councilor Harold Whitehouse brought before the Committee the issue of people parking on the narrow section of South Street heading down to Marcy Street. He stated that the road was built to slow down the speed of traffic. John Burke stated that signage was removed for construction late into the fall and that it would be going back up shortly.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Elaine E. Boucas