

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 AM – Thursday, June 19, 2003  
City Hall - Council Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**II: ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Alex Hanson, Chair, Asst.Mayor	
Ralph DiBernardo, Vice-Chair	Ted Gray, Member
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation	Herb Bunnell
Dave Allen, Deputy Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt	Hank Greenberg, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	

Also present was Lucy Tillman, Planning Department

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of May 15, 2003. Seconded by Ralph DiBernardo.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Plains Ave. Ballfield/Pearson St. – Joshua DeMarco, 58 Pearson St. addressed the Committee. He explained that when there is no parking allowed on Plains Ave. for a little league game, people park on both sides of Pearson St. and you cannot get in or out of the street. People park against the flow of traffic as well. He added that the most outrageous problem occurs at the intersection of Plains Ave. and Pearson St. Here, people park on the corner instead of twenty feet from the intersection. He stated that the Coast bus is even unable to maneuver up the street. The Police have been called on several occasions. They moved the barricades to the corners and asked people parked there to move. He expressed his concern with the traffic and potential danger and is asking the City for help. He suggested using the closed street for parking as it would handle about 20 cars and would free up the congestion.

Gary Dellner, 44 Pearson Street presented a petition with a list of 28 names from the surrounding streets who were concerned about this problem. He stated that this has been an on-going problem. Mr. Dellner suggested the following: Parking

vehicles in a blocked off area of the street; Installing netting to catch foul balls; and parking all vehicles in the outfield.

Alex Hanson recommended that the Committee conduct an onsite review during a ballgame. He asked John Burke to coordinate a meeting with the Police Dept., Fire Chief, Ron Cypher and the Little League folks.

Chairman Hanson stated that he has been chairman of Traffic & Safety for the last 10 years and this was the first time the issue has come before the committee. The prior Traffic & Safety Committee authorized the use of barricades for the Little League and he believes this is the first complaint that we have received. Herb Bunnell stated that he has been on the Committee for 20 years and doesn't ever remember having a single complaint.

Mr. Dellner stated that there have been numerous complaints to the Police Department. Chairman Hanson stated that normally when someone complains about a traffic issue to the Police Dept., they refer it to Traffic & Safety, so he was unsure why it did not happen this time. He added that someone from the Police Dept. should have forwarded these concerns on to the Traffic & Safety Committee.

Chairman Hanson stated that Traffic & Safety is made up of the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. He added that an on-site review will occur so that we are able to work with League officials to come back with a plan at the next meeting for what is recommended. He also stated that Mr. DeMarco and Mr. Dellner would be notified of the onsite meeting.

Fire Chief Chris LeClaire stated that at the on-site meeting the Committee will be looking for your participation and listening to any other concerns you may have.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE:**

(A) Middle Street between Union and Madison Streets – Crosswalk – John Burke stated that as former resident of the neighborhood, the majority of people crossing in this area are doing so to gain access to the store. He would not advise moving the crosswalk to another location as people will still cross to the store here.

**MOTION** by Ron Cypher to place on file. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion Passed.

(B) Plains Ave and Peverly Hill Road – Traffic Lights – John Burke received an email from a resident concerned that the left turns from Plains Ave. onto Middle Rd. are in conflict with traffic approaching from Peverly Hill Road. John stated that the Peverly Hill Road approach to the intersection is given a “leading green” to clear these turners before the Plains approach

is given a green. However, there is a short overlap when both have a green. John will evaluate and bring back a report to the next meeting.

(C) Partridge Street – No Parking

**MOTION** made by Lt. Fred Hoysradt to conduct an on-site review. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

(A) Manchester Square Development – response to PDA as requested by Committee.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

(A) 1871 Islington Street – Proposed conversion of Existing Office Building to 12 Dwelling Units – Ken Wood from Attar Engineering in Eliot presented the revised plans. Mr. Wood explained the changes as a result of the recent site walk. The three parking spaces Nos.36, 37 and 38 will all be handicap accessible. The sidewalk from the side entrance will be continued along Frenchman’s lane as a 5-ft wide concrete sidewalk. The driveway entrance to Frenchman’s lane will be 18-ft. wide.

Alex Hanson stated that the prior plan showed 40 spaces required and this one says 34. He asked if the difference was related to the residential units. Mr. Wood stated that was correct.

Alex Hanson referred to the one-way flow in lot and asked if there would be signage. Mr. Wood answered in the affirmative. He noted a new proposed crosswalk at Frenchman’s Lane across Islington Street. He added that the proposed revisions will be submitted to the Planning Department.

Alex Hanson asked Ralph DiBernardo if there were any other recommendations from the Onsite Committee. Ralph responded that Mr. Wood had addressed them all.

**MOTION** by Ron Cypher to approve plans as submitted. Ted Gray seconded. Motion passed.

Dave Allen asked that we would be seeing the revision before the TAC meeting. Mr. Wood answered “yes”.

(B) Woodbury Avenue – Traffic Safety Issues – Lenore Weiss-Bronson was present from the Frank Jones Neighborhood Association. She discussed the traffic problems of concern to the neighborhood. First she applauded

the Police Department for their continued enforcement. She stated that speeding is a definite issue and truck speed has become a real problem. There is no NO TRUCKS sign at the intersection of Market St. Ext. and Woodbury. There is also a lot of truck traffic from Farm Lane with the car dealerships there. She suggested rerouting traffic and not directing people onto Woodbury Avenue from 95. It would be easier to direct them to the Spaulding to the Mall area. She would like to see traffic routed out of their neighborhood as they are residential, not a commercial neighborhood.

John Burke stated there are three (3) things that the City is working on related to the issue on Woodbury Ave. 1. A project application for Federal Funding has been submitted to NHDOT to construct traffic calming measures on Woodbury Avenue. He noted that Woodbury Avenue is still 40-feet wide – reflecting the days when it was a primary east-west highway. He noted that the project was ranked among the Top 10 regional projects submitted to NHDOT by the Seacoast MPO. 2. The Master Plan Subcommittee on Transportation has a couple of representatives from the neighborhood. One of the recommendations coming from the Masterplan will be a full truck routing study that will look at reworking our existing Ordinance on Truck Regulations. Woodbury Ave. is however, today a no “through” truck route by Ordinance. 3. The NHDOT U.S. Route 1 By-pass Project is beginning. The City will be meeting with NHDOT next week to initiate the study process. They will want to know the City’s vision for the By-pass and the streets that connect to it – such as Woodbury Ave. This is an opportune time to reshape the corridor in terms of truck access. The study will include a very involved public process.

Alex Hanson stated that a year ago the Committee contacted the NHDOT on sign changes on the Interstate and the changes have taken place.

Ralph DiBernardo asked with the new Volkswagen Building going up in Greenland, will this area get some relief from the old auto dealership located off of the Spaulding. Chairman Hanson stated yes. The whole dealership is moving out there.

- (C) Cass Street – Speed – Kerry Hunter contacted Alex Hanson about the speed from the stop sign through to Middle Street asking if the stealth sign could be used. Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt will schedule its use.
- (D) Middle Road - Ted Gray stated that the gentlemen building a fence on City property is still doing so. Alex Hanson stated that Jason Page and Public Works will take a look at this.
- (E) Mechanic St./Marcy St. – Fence – Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt stated that the fence on the property as you leave Mechanic St. to Marcy St. is a visual obscurement to on-coming traffic. He asked if there is any restriction as to

the closeness of the fence? John Burke stated that he believes that the Chief of Police has authority to move such visual obstructions if they impact public safety, however, he suggested a telephone call to the owners who may be willing to relocate the fence. Alex Hanson suggested scheduling this for an on-site with the owners to collectively look at the issue.

**MOTION** by Ralph DiBernardo for on-site. Seconded by Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt.

- (F) Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt stated that he had put in a stop sign request at the end of South Street where it hits Marcy St. John Burke stated that the signs had come down during the recent South Street road construction. He would check on it to see that they had gone back up.
- (G) Burkitt and Dennett Streets - 4-Way Stop – Alex Hanson stated that Dennett Street is in the middle of construction and that the 4-way stop issue has re-arisen. He added that if they are going to put it in, now is the time. John Burke recommended the 4-way stop – given the proximity to the school and the fact that Burkitt Street is used as a commuter cut-through to the Bypass.

**MOTION** made Ralph DiBernardo to place a 4-way stop. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (H) John Burke stated he hoped that everybody read the “Managing Speed” article from the Federal Highway Administration. He added that it was a very comprehensive article that covered about 90% of the issues that the Committee deals with on a day to day basis. He noted that solutions to speed always deal with the “4 E’s” of speed: Education, Enforcement, Emergency Response and Engineering.

Police Lt. Fred Hoysradt stated that with respect to Education, he instituted a program where the police cadets assist neighborhoods to identify driving violations. Rather than use the Stealth board, a neighborhood association member works with the Police Cadet. The police Cadet goes out with a radar unit if a neighborhood association member is willing to sit with them and actually observe the cars traveling on their road, they write down every single vehicle that passes by. The Cadet has binoculars, a clipboard, and pen to mark down the vehicle, its license plate and send out a letter of warning - basically requesting that they slow down. We have not had any residents willing to do this for two years now. Alex Hanson asked him to put a memo together for Paula Glynn, head of the Neighborhood Association.

John Burke recommended also going to the different neighborhood association meetings to discuss the speed issues and facts.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Elaine E. Boucas