

**PORTSMOUTH**  
**TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**8:00 AM – Thursday, January 15, 2004**  
**City Hall - Council Chambers**

**DRAFT**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

**II: ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman	Herb Bunnell, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Police Captain Bob Carbone	Ted Gray, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	

Excused absences: Chairman Alex Hanson and John Burke.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

Corrections to November 20, 2003 meeting. On Page 1, Maplewood/Cutts/Rt.1 Bypass, the Motion was seconded by Hank Greenberg. Page 6 (G) the park referred to was Hillcrest Estates. The correct spelling is Eric Weinrieb.

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion by Ted Gray to accept the revised minutes of the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting of November 20, 2003. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

(A) 2222 Lafayette Road – Request for Signing and Striping – Explanatory letter from DOT on striping policy on Lafayette Road in front of the new meat store provided by John Burke that was placed on file.

(B) Patriot's Park – Stop light at entrance – **MOTION** made by Ralph DiBernardo that in John's absence we do three things with this. 1. John send a copy to the State because it is a state highway; 2. Send a copy to the Planning Department as it is a planning issue because they have asked if there is any way they can get a second entrance into Patriot's Park off Heritage; and 3. Refer to Ron Cypher who is representing this Committee on the Route 1 study committee which is pertinent to the Route 1 study as to whether they could accommodate another stop light at Patriot's Park. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

(C) 625 Islington St. – Parking in Right-Turn Lane – Ralph DiBernardo suggested on-site next month, it is a police issue as there is no signage and appears to be no striping and there is parking in front of the appliance repair business across from Dr. Harvey's which obstructs the right-turn lane. The issue is, is it defined as a

right-turn lane for police enforcement? Steve Parkinson stated it exists on the books but there is no signage on that side and stated this is a signage issue.

Capt. Carbone informed the Committee there is a second issue of striping for the right-turn lane which has not been designated as such and will investigate whether or not to do this. Steve Parkinson will include this in his motion.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Public Works to erect appropriate signage in accordance with the City Ordinance prohibiting parking and to investigate striping of the right-turn lane. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion passed.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) Maplewood/Cutts/Rt. 1 Bypass – Report back from Planning Department on potential tree clearing to improve intersection sight distance. Lucy Tillman stated that the Planning Department does not agree with Gary Dodd’s opinion that the trees adjacent to the intersection of Cutts Street and Maplewood Avenue should be removed. The Public Works Department has made some improvements to the intersection by adding striping and a stop sign. These clearly show a driver where the lane is and where to stop. The existing vegetation contributes to the abutting neighborhood. This neighborhood is effected by the Route One By-pass and to further remove vegetation would have a negative effect on the neighborhood. These trees are a visual barrier, aid in noise reduction and air pollution for the residential properties on the North side of Maplewood Avenue.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Chris LeClaire asked about centering the light. Ralph DiBernardo stated that John Burke was going to bring this to Public Works. Ralph DiBernardo thought it was more of a scheduling and weather problem. Steve Parkinson stated that PW has not had an opportunity to get out there and do anything with this light. On a list of things to do in the spring.

- (B) New COAST Bus Stop – NB Lafayette Road in Vicinity of Lafayette Plaza – Rad Nichols, Manager of Operations and Planning informed the Committee that the owners of Lafayette Plaza have requested service be ceased at the Plaza itself Outbound we turn into the Plaza at the southern most entrance, swing through and come out at the lights. Coming northbound again we enter the southern most entrance and come out again at the lights. The owner of the Plaza feels that there is currently no benefit to them in our doing this, partly because of construction there we may be considered more of an issue. We need to come up with some sort of a solution to continue to serve this Plaza with a stop relatively near by. We do not have any stops on Lafayette Road between the Plaza/Crossroads House to below Ocean and Peverly Hill Roads. We would like to add at least one stop northbound, not sure we can do anything Southbound at this point. Northbound on Lafayette Road just after the lights at the Plaza closest to entry and exit of the current eyeglass store.

Ted Gray referred to on-site and stated that no matter what you do it is a tough call and suggested that perhaps because there is a slight widening of the travel and breakdown lanes in front of the eyeglass store, this could possibly be the best spot for a bus stop, it is visible with plenty of vision, and is a bit away from traffic light. The only other thing that could be done is to make a cut out a little farther up where Bowl-A-Rama is.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to put it in the cut out curve. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson stated that there is currently a bus stop in front of the movie theatre at LedgeWood northbound and asked about the southbound. The only solution talked about with John Burke at this point is doing some sort of a curb cut. Last spring the Traffic & Safety Committee was there and had serious concerns about speed of travel and possibility of being rear ended while stopping on Lafayette Road. John Burke is investigating a curb cut somewhere between the light at the main entrance to the Plaza and further south at Dunkin Donuts.

Ted Gray suggested considering one at the parking area at Crossroads. Rad Nichols stated there is a southbound stop at driveway at Crossroads. There is a sidewalk improvement plan on Lafayette Road between Crossroads and the light. Ralph DiBernardo stated that it was a state road. We pull off the road and use their driveway.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) 66 Madison Street – Proposed Residential Development - TAC Referral – Eric Weinrieb of Altus Engineering representing CIF and apologized for not make the site walk. Mr. Weinrieb explained the parking and sidewalk issues. Ralph DiBernardo stated that the on-site committee agreed with him and the plan was self-explanatory.

Steve Parkinson referred to on-site and the committee had a couple of additional comments and concerns. Noted that the no-parking signs were erected, which was good but would like additional one as you come around the backside of the turnaround within the cul-de-sac. In addition, appropriate signage and markings that the cul-de-sac is one direction and the third, the drive going in be appropriately named in accordance with City policies and the units be numbered in accordance with the City's street numbering policies.

Mr. Weinrieb answered that preference that Units on Madison St. be numbered consecutively even numbered. Steve Parkinson stated his concern that they be numbered with appropriate addresses so that Police and Fire can respond in a timely fashion to the right address. The street will be named Parish Way as there was a parish on the site at one time. Steve Parkinson asked if Units 8,9,10,11 will be addressed Parish Way and Madison Street will have a Madison Street address.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson for an additional one-way sign around the cul-de-sac; naming of street in accordance with City policies and appropriate numbering in accordance with City's street numbering policies. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (B) 292 Madison Street – Resident complaint – parking constraints/access to driveway – Becky Marden, owner of 297 Austin Street stated that parking is tight in the area. Explained one of her requirements for buying the house is it had off street parking which increases the cost of real estate in Portsmouth and feels she should have access to her driveway. Her neighbors bought their homes knowing they didn't have parking, they are all well aware of the situation. She has spoken with most of them and have watched her trying to get in and out of her driveway and many times have not been able to get in and have been able to find parking on Madison St. During the on-site there were no cars on the street which is unusual. There were 3 car owners there, none of them were parked on the street, obviously had found parking elsewhere. In the winter it is much worse with snowbanks narrowing the street and not being a major road, is not plowed as frequently making it even more difficult to get in and out and am fearful of hitting parked cars and have hit my chain link fence many times. Frequently have to drive over curbing to get in and out, holding up traffic. I'm requesting only a little section across from my driveway probably only eliminating one parking space, not asking to eliminate all of the parking spaces.

Neil King of 308 Austin Street, almost across the street from Becky. I bought the house 5 years ago knowing we had street parking. I own half the building the other half is owned by another owner and between us we have 4 or 5 cars and do use parking on Austin and Madison Streets and on an average there is only 3 cars parked in the section between the corner and driveway just after Becky's driveway on our side. There are 5 cars related to our building and the house next to ours has off-street parking for 2 cars, they have 3, the house next to Becky doesn't have off-street parking, just moved in with 2 cars, and before them there was 1 car so there is certainly a lot of people who want to park on Austin street. Relative to parking on Madison St., it does get used a lot by the residents of Madison Apts. and at times there is no parking on Madison. Normally when 3 cars park, if they pull up with enough room for Becky to get out of her driveway there's room for at least 3 cars without sticking out too far and I feel if you take any one of the parking spaces technically we'd be down to 2 spaces which really address the parking needs of our immediate area.

Ralph DiBernardo stated he had two letters received related to this issue from residents of the area from Patti Keck and Scott Buchanan of 293 Austin St. and from Douglas of 306 Austin St. and both of them are decidedly against changing any parking or removing it. They are placed on file and available to anybody who would want a copy. Not necessary to read them.

Ted Gray referred to the on-site and yes, it is a tight area, typical of a lot of the older neighborhoods and the committee feels that probably this is a neighborhood issue and that if everyone does his/her part, we don't see any solution and just try to do the best job possible. Hopefully the City will keep the street plowed and again, if a vehicle is on the street, it hinders plowing. We feel it is a neighborhood issue to be resolved.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher.  
Motion passed.

Ron Cypher stated that John Burke went out there and found some of the cars on the opposite side were not parked very close to the curb and one of the cars was 2' out from the curb. This is an enforcement issue.

Ralph DiBernardo suggested the neighbors take note of this and in the spirit of cooperation to keep in mind that takes a lot off the width of the street and is an enforcement issue and you have an obligation to park tight to the curb and not block the right-of-way, a tagable issue.

- (C) Hancock/Marcy Street – Police Department Referral – Corner clearance – Ted Gray stated he and Deputy Police Chief Dave Young went to Hancock St. and found the “no parking” sign on the ground, covered with snow.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to refer to Public Works to replace sign. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

- (D) Corporate Drive/International Drive – PDA Referral – Proposed 4-way stop – Maria Stowell, Manager of Engineering Dept at PDA was present. Ralph DiBernardo stated that John Burke informed him he believes that the information he is waiting for will warrant the need for a 4-way stop. Fire Chief LeClaire asked what information were they waiting for. Information of statistical traffic count and John is absolutely certain that if we were to make a motion to put a 4-way stop sign there after he collects the information that it would go forward. It is presently a blinking red and yellow and getting t-bone accidents.

Capt. Carbone stated it seems like an obvious issue and perhaps should just do it while we are waiting for traffic counts.

Steve Parkinson stated John needs to document that the warrants are met because with 4-way stops there are issues that have to be addressed as far as traffic counts and the volume of traffic on each light is similar. This will be an educational process as well as people are used to speeding through there.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to have this a 4-way intersection if the warrants are met by the Traffic Engineer. Seconded by Chief LeClaire. Motion passed.

Ms. Stowell said this was sufficient and thanked the committee.

Chief LeClaire asked if the warrants weren't enough to warrant a stop signal. Ralph DiBernardo stated it would be a state issue as signals have to be approved by the state.

Ms. Stowell stated the PDA had completed a transportation study and this is one of the intersections that were identified that needed some improvement as the Tradeport grows.

Steve Parkinson stated that we ultimately there will be a number of other controlled intersections at the Tradeport.

Ralph DiBernardo stated that the 4-way stop will be able to be accomplished long before signals. Steve Parkinson stated it will lend safety to the intersection.

- (E) 917 Greenland Road – Proposed Office – TAC Referral – Eric Weinrieb was present and stated that TAC referred him to Traffic & Safety regarding extension of the sidewalk along Greenland Road and looking for guidance.

Ron Cypher stated there is an existing sidewalk there and the on-site committee thought it would be wise to have an extension down as far as the crosswalk on Sherburne Rd and in addition a granite curb with a tip down at the crosswalk, also with a granite curb up the Sherburne Road to contain the drainage down to the corner and the entrance sign to be pointed so it can be seen coming down Greenland Road.

Eric Weinrieb stated the signage had been done per TAC.

**MOTION** made by Ron Cypher for an extension down as far as the crosswalk on Sherburne Road, concrete sidewalk with granite curbing with a tip down at the crosswalk and curbing up Sherburne Road to contain drainage to the corner with the approval of the City Engineer. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Herb Bunnell opposed.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at approximately a.m.

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