

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 AM – Thursday, January 20, 2005
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman	Fire Chief Chris LeClaire
Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman	Ted Gray, Member
John Burke, Dir.Parking & Transportation	Ron Cypher, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Herb Bunnell, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	

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 December 16, 2004. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) Middle Street Crosswalk @ Wibird Street – Resident request for crosswalk see 10/26/04 letter – John Burke stated that this is an acceptable location for a crosswalk on Middle St. south of Wibird however, it will require appropriate site distance. There will need to be a 20 to 30 foot no parking area created south of the crosswalk directly in front of 564 Middle Street - the house of the gentleman requesting the crosswalk. John spoke with the owner of 564 Middle Street who generally parks in front of his house. He had no problem with creating this 20 to 30-foot no parking area to provide safe sight distance to the crosswalk. Ralph DiBernardo asked what side of the street this resident is on. John Burke responded the westerly side. Ralph asked if no parking would be required on the other side. John stated that on this side there is already corner clearance to Wibird Street per state law that will be provided.

Ted Gray stated his concern with adding more crosswalks in the City and the closeness of this crosswalk to the one at the store. John Burke responded that there is a fairly significant pedestrian volume coming from the neighborhoods off Wibird, down Wibird and crossing Middle to Madison. He added that the store crossing is further south.

MOTION made by Ralph DiBernardo to recommend approval of the crosswalk location subject to the 20 to 30 foot parking clearance on the westerly side of Middle Street directly south of the proposed crosswalk. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- (A) Preble Way & Crescent Way Streetscape Improvements - Public Works Project Review – presented at meeting – Cindy Hayden, Deputy City Manager and Tom Richter of the Public Works Department presented the project. There has been a lot of focus on streetscape improvements in this neighborhood since late 1999. For the Preble and Crescent design, there has been a lot of neighborhood involvement, public meetings and on-site walks. The project is to begin at Ranger Way with granite curbing, concrete sidewalks and an esplanade between the sidewalk and travelway with new street trees. Better organization of onstreet parking is proposed.

Ralph DiBernardo asked if there were existing sidewalks. Tom Richter responded that the existing asphalt sidewalks are sporadic and narrow. Phase I of the improvements will begin this spring. The original water and drain lines put in in the early 1900's, will be replaced. Ralph DiBernardo asked if wastewater was upgraded? Mr.Richter stated the sewer system was upgraded. Steve Parkinson stated the majority of the system has been upgraded with one small stretch of Phase II to be completed. Ralph DiBernardo asked Steve Parkinson if we build new sidewalks do we maintain them. Steve answered no. Unfortunately we do not have the time, money or manpower to clear all sidewalks in the City, we concentrate on main arteries, school routes and central business district.

Ted Gray asked if this is something the City is fully funding? Steve Parkinson stated that it is primarily CDBG funded. The water works is funded through the water/sewer enterprise funds. John Burke stated there will be new street signs, parking signs and regulatory signs as part of the project. John Burke stated that since parking is being modified per public input and design, an Ordinance change is required. Tom Richter stated for the record that the areas of No Parking are:

Preble Way

South side from Ranger Way to Kearsarge Way
North side 20 feet east of Ranger Way to Kearsarge Way

Crescent Way

South side from Kearsarge Way to 40' west of Saratoga Way
South side from Porpoise way to end of street
North side from Kearsarge way to 80' west of Porpoise Way

Steve Parkinson noted that in addition to the new organized onstreet parking, there is parking along the end of the ballfield and ating lot at Hislop park. Between the park and the pump station there are a number of head in parking spaces created a few years back for parking during ball games primarily to get cars off streets during snow storms. So there is a whole other section of parking that exists between the ball field and the pump station.

MOTION made by Fire Chief LeClaire to approve the plan as presented with parking restrictions as stipulated. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) Proposed Change to Regular Meeting Date – Ralph DiBernardo explained the proposed change in meeting date is do to the fact that Traffic and Safety and Planning Board meet the same day. This is sometimes a problem when a required T&S change to a developer’s plan cannot be completed in time for the Planning Board meeting later in day. The proposed change will have the TAC meeting the first week of the month, the Traffic and Safety Committee moving to the second week of the month and the Planning Board the third week of the month. So the proposed change is to move Traffic & Safety from the third Thursday of the month to the second Thursday of the month.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson that the Traffic & Safety meetings be held the second Thursday of each month, including changing the Tuesday on-sites to the second Tuesday of each month. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Ted Gray stated that next month’s meeting will be held Thursday, February 10th.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) **Speeding** - Ron Cypher stated that the speeding enforcement issue is difficult no matter where you go. He stated that he had been in Manchester and noticed a sign approximately 18” x 24” at side of road “Meet our Judges - Exceed the Speed Limit”. Further down the road there was another sign “Smile You May Be on Radar”. He suggested that the signs got your attention and perhaps the City should do something like this. Deputy Police Chief Young informed the committee the Police Department has been looking at getting signage for a similar program with a variety of slogans. He is also looking at getting the neighborhoods involved who complain about speed issues regularly.

Ted Gray asked about progress on the South Street speed issue. Deputy Chief Dave Young stated that he and John Burke will attend the next meeting of the Friends of the South End. John Burke stated that the idea of public outreach to include neighborhood safe speed or “pace” programs is a better approach than artificially lowering all speed limits in the City to the lowest common denominator – 20 mph. Speed limits are established by RSA and where they are modified by municipalities, by law, they must accompany an engineering study.

Chairman John Hynes stated that he has discussed with Police Chief Magnant about doing something along Greenland Road relative to speed enforcement and education. John Burke added that the City is initiating an engineering study of Route 33 in February that will include the 33/B&M Bridge replacement project. He noted that a focus of the study will be traffic calming, speed abatement and safety improvements through design of this section of Greenland Road

- (B) **Snow Blowing** - Ralph DiBernardo asked Steve Parkinson if Public Works could put out public information regarding blowing snow out into the street. Steve responded that he is dealing with these types of issues throughout the City with people pushing snow out into the streets.
- (C) **Islington Street Onstreet Parking**- Ralph DiBernardo requested that the issue of parking on upper Islington Street adjacent to the old standpipe be put on the on-site agenda for next month’s meeting.

- (D) **Traffic Signals at Jeannie's Bakery** – Herb Bunnell stated that he does not believe that there is anyone living on the street now and the restaurant has moved. He wondered whether the lights could be removed. Steve Parkinson responded that there is a florist business and the school is in operation.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION made by Ted Gray to adjourn. Seconded by Steve Parkinson.
Adjourned at approximately 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Elaine E. Boucas