PORTSMOUTH DRAFT TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING 9:00 AM – Thursday, June 9, 2005 City Hall - Council Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director Dave Young, Deputy Police Chief Herb Bunnell, Member Ted Gray, Member Ron Cypher, Member Jonathan Bailey, Member

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 12, 2005. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING:

Ralph DiBernardo explained that the City Council requested a public hearing regarding the African Burial Ground on Chestnut Street and the proposal by the African Burial Ground Committee and proceeded to read the Public Notice which was published in the newspaper.

Steve Parkinson a member of the committee gave a brief presentation of the Committee's proposal to dead end Chestnut Street at Court Street to provide for an appropriate memorial.

The Public Hearing was opened and Ralph DiBernardo stated this committee is here to deliberate the issue of traffic, traffic flow and safety.

First speaker, Councilor Bill St. Laurent 253 Colonial Drive spoke in favor of a through way all the way from State Street to Court Street. Would like to see it one-way as a safety issue and suggested no parking on Chestnut Street. Would like to see Chestnut Street kept open.

Suzanne Woodland, Asst. City Attorney clarified that the Fire Chief had no objection to the closing of the street and that the exact boundaries of the burial site are unknown.

Ralph DiBernardo also verified that at the on-site the Fire Chief found no adverse effect.

Attorney Chris Marshall of Ford, Weaver and McDonald on behalf of TD Bank North National Assoc. previously known as the Bank of New Hampshire with a place of business on Chestnut Street. The Bank is very supportive of creating a suitable memorial and supportive of the African Burial Ground Committee. The Bank consents to the closure of Chestnut Street on the condition and proviso that their curb cut not be narrowed in any way and remain the same.

Steve Parkinson stated that an earlier version of the plan proposed to change the configuration of the entrance. Since that plan was made, discussions were held with the Bank and it was agreed to leave it as it is. The final proposal is for no change to the curb cut

Councilor Harold Whitehouse 38 Humphreys Court, citizen, taxpayer and long time resident, asked the Traffic & Safety committee to take another hard look at possibly making this one-way as it was first determined to do. In favor of identifying this site as an historical site with greenery, markers, plantings, and curbing. The cut through streets are important. Asked for Traffic & Safety to take this back to the Committee and look at making this one-way and report back to the City Council. Before blocking off any street, it needs to go before the City Council for a public hearing. The flow of traffic in this City is very important.

There being no one to speak for to or against, Deputy Chairman closed the public hearing.

Deputy Chief Young stated that the Police Department does not see any adverse effect if Chestnut St. at Court Street is made a dead end street.

Ralph DiBernardo stated all 5 abutters and the bank have been made aware of this through the process, all have agreed to this proposal or have no objection that the Bank wants to maintain the curb cut. Also stated he thought this was a safety improvement, as it will eliminate the intersection in front of the elderly housing where there is a crosswalk.

MOTION made by Jonathan Bailey. Following a public hearing and pubic input that the City Council be advised that the Traffic & Safety Committee finds no adverse traffic or safety impact and recommends approval of the proposal to dead end Chestnut Street at Court Street for the Burial Ground memorial and to retain the curb cut at the Bank. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

(A) Brewyard Terraces – Traffic Impact Mitigation – Report back from Public Works Department - Darryl Ford of Maguire Group reported he received an update of the traffic analysis from the Police Dept. and is basically in agreement with the analysis. There is one other possible mitigation (as mentioned in the applicant's report) that could be done in the interim. That is to take a close look at the signals at Bartlett and Islington and include them in the plan.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to forward the report back to TAC to work with the developer for appropriate mitigation of traffic impacts. Seconded by Deputy Police Chief Young. Motion passed.

MOTION by Steve Parkinson to suspend rules and take up item (A) under New Business. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Marston Street — (May 4, 2005 letter attached) - Mimi Clark, 139 South Street – Referred to a large granite rock directly across from her driveway. There is parking in front of the rock that blocks her from exiting her driveway. Requesting that a no parking sign be placed there.

Deputy Police Chief Young suggested she call the Police Department when she is blocked so a record could be established. Ron Cypher referred to the on-site report saying it has already been discussed.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to table this issue until the July meeting due to the fact that Deputy Police Chief Young will have his patrol officers monitor this situation during daytime and nighttime and report back to us so that we can take appropriate action. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS resumed:

(B) Church Street - Downtown Business Owner request to locate dumpsters located in the public right-of-way - Report back from Public Works Department - Ted Gray referred to the on-site that it was the Committee's recommendation to eliminate parking, reposition the dumpsters and work out an agreement with the Legal Dept. and obtain licenses from the City.

MOTION made by Ted Gray recommending the elimination of parking on State Street to Court Street and that the dumpster owners/renters must obtain license agreements with the City to allow their continued use of the Church Street R.O.W. These dumpsters must be located parallel to the buildings on the Easterly side of Church Street, not block any doorways and not be within 65 feet off State Street. Seconded by Herb Bunnell. Motion passed.

(C) Rte.1A/Rte.1B – Request for Traffic Signal Warrants Analysis – (DOT letter dated May 17, 2005 attached) – MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place on file. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _	
•	Elaine E. Boucas