

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
9:00 AM – Thursday, December 8, 2005
City Hall - Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

John Hynes Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 a.m. and turned the meeting over to Chairman DiBernardo.

II: ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Councilor John Hynes, Chairman	Deborah Finnigan, Traffic Engineer
Ralph DiBernardo, Deputy Chairman	Ted Gray, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Ron Cypher, Member
Deputy Police Chief Dave Young	Jonathan Bailey, Member
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire	John Connors, Member

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 November 10, 2005. Ted Gray referred to Page 2, 4th paragraph should read “Portsmouth buses no longer cost high school students to ride and the student parking fee was doubled in cost. Page 3, Tiny Totland not Toyland. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (A) **Noise Ordinance** – Jake Braking - Report Back – (Asst. City Attorney’s memo dated November 16, 2005 and resident letter dated 8/22/05 attached) – Steve Parkinson reported that the Legal Department recommends, if we want to go forward, to put in a proposed Ordinance Change. Ralph DiBernardo stated it is not an issue for Traffic & Safety, it is a noise ordinance issue. Legal expressed the view this is a noise issue not a truck issue. Deputy Police Chief Young suggested he and someone else from the Police Department meet with Legal to discuss post ordinance and report back at the next meeting. There are some issues in the way of enforcement needed to be addressed before moving forward on this.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to the Police Department for further study and report back at the next meeting. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Meadow Road** – trees - report back – (City Attorney’s letter dated November 7, 2005 attached) – Debbie Finnigan had a picture of the tree and reported the tree was taken down, site distance is much better.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to place on file and send a letter to the homeowner thanking them for their prompt action to our request. Seconded by Deputy Chief Dave Young. Motion passed.

- (B) **Pearl Street** – Sub-committee - report back – Debbie Finnigan reported that the subcommittee met on December 7th and will give their recommendation at the next meeting in order to give the neighborhoods a chance to be informed of the date of our next meeting.

Lucy Tillman informed the Committee that the new owner of the Pearl has an application before the Board of Adjustment to expand the use of the facility by removing the upper level apartment and expanding the function facility into the loft. It does not appear a site review is needed. Debbie Finnigan reported that this was discussed at yesterday's Pearl Street committee meeting.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to accept the report. Seconded by Jonathan Bailey. Motion passed.

- (C) **Sutton/Greenside Streets** – Placement of stop sign – report back – Debbie Finnigan reported she researched the stop signs being in the right or wrong place and did not find documentation showing either option, and she is looking for insight as to what should be done next.

Ralph DiBernardo suggested referring this to Debbie the City Engineer to make a determination of how stop signs should be placed at this intersection. Steve Parkinson suggested looking at the entire area on that side of Sherburne Road to see if stop signs are warranted and report back on recommendation for that particular area rather than just one intersection.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to look at the entire area on Sherburne Road to see if stop signs are warranted and report back. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) **Cottage Street** – TAC referral – Report Back (attached maps) – Ralph DiBernardo referred to the discussion on the proposal by Coast Cadillac to move their driveway, voted in the affirmative as we felt it was an improved safety issue. We concurred, strictly on a traffic and safety issue, that moving the driveway up the street from the bypass would be an improved safety factor. Coast Cadillac agreed that car carriers would no longer unload on Cottage St. which created a traffic issue. TAC believes this committee needs to address no parking on a portion of that street to ensure that the agreements we have are complied with and public safety is addressed.

Debbie Finnigan presented the members with a map and reported that the approximate locations of the signs showed on the map would be good locations for no parking. Beyond the Armory is residential. Recommended no parking on the northerly side up to the driveway of the Armory. On the southerly side there would be no parking up to the property line that divides residential from the new driveway property.

Chief LeClaire asked if there was parking problems or was this for the trucks. Debbie responded for the trucks.

Steve Parkinson stated the proposed area is predominately no parking.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to City Council the creation of a no parking zone on Cottage Street as per the attached plan.

Attorney Charles Griffin was present on behalf of Coast and stated they had no issue with the committee's parking recommendation. His question is the timing. The intent was that the carriers stop parking on Cottage St. once the improvements were implemented. Received final approval of site review in November and believes it will be the first of May before improvements are in place. Therefore would not want to see the no parking go into effect prior to that time, otherwise the vehicles would need to go back into the parking lot and the original problems surface again. Suggested the motion read "the City Council not act upon this until the improvements are in place."

Amended **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to refer this to the City Council once the new driveway entrance is completed.

MOTION made by Deputy Police Chief Young to table until March meeting. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

VII. INFORMATIONAL:

- (A) **Atlantic Heights** – Changing Places Housing Project – (Resident letter dated November 12 and City Manager's response dated November 15, 2005 attached) – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.
- (B) **Appointments** - Renewal of Appointments to Committee – Ralph DiBernardo informed the civilian members that their appointments expire December 31st. The City Clerk will be mailing you applications for reappointment if you are interested. Suggested speaking with the new mayor of your interest as appointments are the prerogative of the Mayor and voted on by the City Council.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. **Church Street** – No parking between State and Court Streets was referred back to this committee for further study. The Council tabled this for a report back from this Committee. This cannot be discussed today as it has to be part of our Agenda and posted. We will be looking at it again next month. George Bell restated his concern of cars parking at the corner of the building blocking a parking spot for business and tenants driveway at the Court St. end. Debbie Finnigan presented pictures of the parking lot. Mr. Bell is requesting replacement of a sign stating "no parking here to corner" with a 3-4' setback from corner of building to alleviate the problem. Deputy Chairman DiBernardo stated that the City owns the entire street up to the buildings themselves, no pavement belongs to the private property owners.
The Deputy Chairman welcomed them back at the next meeting.
Steve Parkinson stated that signs are not put on buildings by the City, they are placed on poles.

- B. **South Street** – Near the intersection of Newcastle Avenue west of the Intersection on the northside of the street – Ted Gray stated there are automobiles parking on the sidewalks. This is an on-going problem.

Deputy Police Chief Young stated he will attend to this.

- IX. ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** to adjourn. Adjourned at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Elaine Boucas, Recording Secretary