

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, January 8, 2009  
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:**

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman	Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer
Steve Parkinson, P.E. Public Works Director	Ted Gray, Member
Captain Dave Ferland	John Connors, Member
Asst. Fire Chief Steve Achilles	

Excused absence: John Howe, absent: Christina Westfall

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the December 11, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

**III. OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) **240 Middle Street – Middle, Richard and Austin Streets Intersection** – Request for Traffic signal or four-way stop – (Plan attached) – Debbie Finnigan referred to the plans showing the current proposal and showing the appropriate crosswalks, signage and pavement markings as it is a school crossing and is one spot where parents in the Safe Routes to School Survey stated it is a difficult intersection for the children to cross. Debbie Finnigan also stated parking to be removed from the first driveway on Austin down to Middle. Ted Gray is opposed to this change and feels perhaps something else could be done. Steve Parkinson feels this is a modest change to this intersection and does afford us more level of safety at this intersection. John Connors referred to the bushes going along the sidewalk and you really have to get out to look behind the bushes and cars park right up to the corner so that either way coming out of Austin left is hard to look one way because of the bushes and hard to look the other way because of the cars sticking out. Debbie Finnigan asked if there was a “No Parking” sign at that intersection. John Connors responded no, and Debbie Finnigan suggested one should be put there. Debbie Finnigan suggested we need to look at this and report back. Police Captain Ferland reported there are not many accidents at this intersection. The Chair asked if it was possible to move the sidewalk from going across Middle to the other side of Austin St. to alleviate pedestrians from that corner or add another crosswalk on that side. This intersection is used by a lot of children to get to Middle School and also at the other end, St. Patrick’s school.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Department of Public Works and to include in future CIP. Seconded by Asst. Fire Chief Achilles. Motion passed. Ted Gray opposed.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Referrals from City Boards and Commissions**

**(A) Southgate Plaza** – Reconfiguration and Enhancement of the Parking area including the addition of a one-story building (Site Plan attached) (TAC Referral) – Greg Mikolaites, Appledore Engineering referred to the drawings for the proposed redevelopment of Southgate Plaza showing the existing aerial of the site. The majority of the work is landscaping and enhancing the plaza making it pedestrian friendly and to improve the circulation and aesthetics which include period lighting, new pavement, new curbing, 105 bushes and 104 trees will be added. There will also be a COAST bus stop added.

Debbie Finnigan referred to the right hand turn coming from Rte.1 to the existing bank, the proposed stop there for the turn, that she is still not convinced that it is appropriate.

Mr. Mikolaites responded they have removed it after TAC.

Debbie Finnigan asked if they addressed replacing the loops and bringing back the pavement.

Mr. Mikolaites responded “yes”.

The parking spaces have been increased by two, there are 735 required, we have proposed 737 and there are 732 existing and adding approximately 25,000 sq. ft. of green space in front and approximately 1,000 ft. of building coming down.

Steve Parkinson asked due to the increase of floor space, what does the traffic study show as far as increase in traffic? His concern is because of the increase in sq. footage, the increase in traffic impact to the signal at the intersection of Southgate and Rte.1.

Mr. Mikolaites responded that they did not do a traffic study, but did do a trip generation table, reporting 55 peak morning trips, 202 peak p.m. trips and 267 peak weekend trips. The average for 2007 was 22,000 cars per day and peaks in August of 26,000 cars.

Brendan Cooney asked about truck circulation access fore tractor trailers?  
Mr. Mikolaites presented the members with a truck circulation plan showing the truck pattern.

The Chair asked about access onto the driveway area from Water Country.  
Mr. Mikolaites responded there will be a fence to prevent cars from Water Country getting into the area.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table until next meeting for a report back concerning the impact to the signalized intersection as well as the intersection of Constitution and Lafayette due to an increase in traffic. Seconded by Asst. Fire Chief Achilles. Motion passed.

- (B) **Marcy Street to Peirce Island** - (City Council Action Sheet attached) City Council Referral – The Chair stated this came from a City Council meeting as to why we were looking at the time tables not allowing overnight parking along Marcy St. at Prescott Park and asked that we take another look at it.

Steve Parkinson explained that we are trying to clean up the Ordinance as there is a disparity of what the Ordinance Book says and what is posted in the field and what's posted in the field doesn't match what's in the Ordinance and have been slowly working on changing this. We are trying to get field conditions match Ordinance and Ordinance match field conditions and this went to Council for cleanup.

The Chair stated that fellow councilors had issue with the fact the current Ordinance reads that there is no parking along the northerly side from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for the parking spaces next to Prescott Park and asked that we look at this again to see if we felt it was necessary to keep it that way or refer to the Parking Committee and have it removed.

Police Captain Ferland suggested we visit the police opinion of the impact of allowing people to park there as it would encourage some loitering in that area and take away a police tool of keeping that area clear between 11 and 6 at night.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table until next month to get an opinion back from the Police Department and for Public Works to look to further so we can have a recommendation to send to the Parking Committee. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary