

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, June 11, 2009
City Hall – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 8:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman
Public Works Director Steve Parkinson
Police Captain Dave Ferland
Asst. Fire Chief Achilles

John Connors, Member
Ted Gray, Member
Ron Cypher, Member
Brendan Cooney, Member

Excused absence; Christina Westfall

Also present was Jon Frederick, Parking Manager

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Police Captain Dave Ferland. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) COAST** – Request for a new bus stop on Borthwick Ave. (e-mail dated April 22, 2009 with photographs attached) – Jon Frederick explained that Coast is requesting addition of two bus stops to serve 155 Borthwick Ave. on the Pease Tradeport Trolley route referred to the photographs in the packets. The second stop is on the opposite side of the street, would like to put the stop there at the utility pole giving passengers easy access to the crosswalk.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to approve the request. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) 225 Borthwick Ave. (Liberty Mutual) Crosswalk** - safety concerns (letter dated May 13, 2009 attached) – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

- (C) Rt.1 By-Pass and Borthwick Intersection** – Lights and Traffic Congestion (e-mails dated May 13, May 21, and May 27, 2009 attached) – **MOTION** made by Assist Fire Chief Achilles to refer to Public Works Department and Police Department. To send letter to state. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

- (D) Dennett Street at Intersection of Thornton and Hunter Hill** – Request for additional stop sign (e-mail dated May 12, 2009 attached) – Ted Gray referred to the on-site and suggested this be denied as there is no need for a four-way stop.

Steve Parkinson stated the request for a stop sign to control speed of traffic on Dennett St. Requirements for placing stop signs specifically prohibits the use of stop signs to control speed. This does not meet warrants for a stop sign.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (E) **Cass/Middle Streets** - Request for Stop Light (letter received May 7, 2009 attached) – Ted Gray referred to on-site. Due to the fact that Middle St. is a two-way street suggested we refer to Public Works Department for a warrant analysis.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to refer to Public Works Department for a warrant analysis. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Steve Parkinson stated that installation of lights have to meet warrants and the volume of traffic on Middle St. is much greater than Cass St., feels it is a good idea to run the warrants in case there is something peculiar with this intersection.

- (F) **Rogers Street** – Pedestrian Safety - Request for speed bumps (e-mail dated May 28, 2009 attached) – Ron Cypher referred to the on-site stating that speed bumps are not practical on certain streets.

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

- (G) **Woodbury/Maplewood Ave. Intersection**– Traffic Calming (letter dated May 20, 2009 attached) – Attorney Bernie Pelech on behalf of his son, John resides at 1050 Woodbury Ave. referring to the traffic calming devices and methods that have been put in place have worked successfully. The round about met with some opposition and was not put in place. A section was left there running north of the old Frank Jones Mansion down a distance where nothing was done, curbs not moved out which created a passing lane on the right where vehicles queue to turn left onto Maplewood Ave. which is used very frequently at high speeds by vehicles passing those queued vehicles. Attorney Pelech presented photos taken by his son of the original proposal bumping curbing out for the circle 23 ft. They would like this committee to recommend that the curbing in front of the Frank Jones mansion basically all the way down to where it bumps out again be moved out to take away that passing lane. The sign with the speed limit on it that was placed there two weeks ago has made a tremendous difference.

Steve Parkinson and staff will be putting together another project for our CIP for submission in October to move the curbing out on the Frank Jones Mansion side as well as some modification of how Maplewood comes in to try and take away some of the non-stop access from Maplewood onto Woodbury.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to endorse the proposal of moving the curbing out in line with the original plan as far as trying to eliminate that right hand slip lane. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

Asst. Fire Chief Achilles concern is with conflicting turning across traffic and wish there was something better could be done with the intersection and liked the original plan.

The Chair stated that he will be adding under his name for City Council to be referred back to the Planning Dept. for the renaming of Woodbury Ave. from the intersection of

the Rite-Aid which continues to be Market St. and Woodbury Ave ends at that set of lights. Hopefully this will alleviate the issue of the truck traffic confusion when truckers not knowing the area come in looking for Woodbury Ave. section of the malls.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **431 Pleasant Street** – Request for curb cut – Police Capt. Dave Ferland recused himself. Ted Gray stated they have been to this location a couple of times. So long as the new owner(s) conforms to some recommendations where the car will be able to drive in, do a 360 in the backyard and drive out. Suggested approval of this request with head in, head out only. If this is violated then the curb cut will be cut off.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to approve this request, head in, head out only. If violated then the curb cut will be cut off. Seconded by Asst. Fire Chief Achilles. Motion passed. Steve Parkinson and Brendan Cooney opposed.

- (B) **Chestnut St. Renovation** - Proposed Streetscape Renovation at the Music Hall and Kearsarge building – report back – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to table to a time uncertain until they get back to us. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (C) **Thornton Street** – Request for Stop Sign/Four-Way Stop – Police Department report back – **MOTION** made by Police Capt. Dave Ferland to table as they do not have the stealth stat results as there were technical difficulties. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (D) **1426 Islington St.** – Request for Stealth stat – Police Department report back - Police Capt. Dave Ferland reported the stealth stat was run on June 1st. The posted speed limit is 30 MPH in that area. The maximum speed recorded of 14,000 cars was 52 MPH, the 50 percentile was 32 MPH with 85 percent of cars doing 36 MPH or less, the average speed was under 32 MPH. We do directive patrols there and with construction there is quite a bit of police presence in that area. The upper end of Islington St. is on our radar screen.

MOTION made by Asst. Fire Chief Achilles to accept report and place on file. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary