

**PORTSMOUTH  
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING  
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, July 9, 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	John Connors, Member
Public Works Director Steve Parkinson	Ted Gray, Member
Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa	Brendan Cooney, Member
Fire Inspector Carl Roediger	

Excused absence; Ron Cypher and Christina Westfall.

Deputy Police Chief Len DiSesa introduced Captain Steve DuBois who will be working with this Committee.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

**IT WAS VOTED** on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2009 meeting. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to go out of order to address Item B first. Seconded by Brendan Cooney.

**(B) South Church – Intersection of Church and Court Streets** - Request for Parking Space – Martha Peterson, Landscape Designer representing South Church 292 State Street is requesting to be able to create one parking space at the southeast corner of the Church property running parallel to Church St. and the building itself. The space was designed to allow vehicle to pull in, back up within the space and head out also going southerly on Church St. to the stop sign. Construction will require the removal of one pillar and full section of the badly damaged rod iron fence. The plan shows a small part of a second section closest to the corner and requesting to leave this entire section instead of a 28 ft. opening, allow a 22 ft opening for the car to enter, back up and leave. A reserved parking space sign for the Church. Construction of the parking space would replace asphalt drip line and existing lawn with a crushed gravel sub-base or recycled asphalt or concrete depending on the City’s recommendation and topped with 1.5” washed gravel. The existing curb that the fence is attached would be straightened and remain as a retainer for the loose stone set lower so car entering would not damage tires. Final grade inside the curb would be 2” below the curb.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to accept this with a 25’ opening and curb be reduced down to approximately street level, no higher than 2” and trees be cut from the bottom so there is a good sight line. A sign to state “one parking space only”. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

Brendan Cooney has some concern regarding enough room at even 25' for a car to be able to pull in and exit that opening.

Steve Parkinson felt 25' is sufficient and 2" curbing would retain materials for parking area, but not to go over 2".

Police Captain Steve DuBois suggested a stipulation that it is parking for a single vehicle.

Deputy Police Chief DiSesa asked that the Church be notified that it should be "head in parking only" and "head out".

- (A) **Intersection of Monroe St. and Middle Rd.** – Request for reinstallation of crosswalk – Police Captain Steve DuBois referred to the site review stating there is a sidewalk on Middle Road side of the street and there is not one on Mon roe Street and more appropriate to have a sidewalk intersecting with another sidewalk with the appropriate ADA capabilities. This whole area is subject to a capital improvement project in the future and at such time a crosswalk could be readdressed.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept and place on file. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

- (C) **Bow St. Intersection of Chapel and Daniel Streets** – Signage Suggestion – Brendan Cooney referred to the site walk and would make sense to repaint the lines to clearly mark right turn lane as "Right Turn Only". There is a "No Left Turn" sign affixed to the stop sign post and suggested moving it across the street to a utility pole across the street to the other side of Daniel and perhaps adding a lane designation sign to a utility pole on the left side of Chapel heading towards Daniel. Suggested referring this to Public Works to review signage placement.

**MOTION** made by Brendan Cooney to refer to Public Works Department for signage placement. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (D) **Penhallow and Sheafe Streets** – Request for post at curb line – Deputy Police Chief DiSesa referring to the on site where several options were explored. The issue is what do we do to mandate a truck to make a wider right turn to avoid collision with the building.

A discussion followed of Sheafe St. becoming one way, relocating the pole, a larger pole, do away with the two parking spaces in front of the old police station.

Carl Roediger wondered if Waste Management had smaller vehicles that are capable of lifting dumpsters and perhaps restrict the size of truck going down Sheafe without eliminating the ability to pick up refuse?

Steve Parkinson stated there were a number of circumstances that occurred in the particular incident. It was a fill in driver for the day who was not familiar with the route, had a GPS that told him to take a right and he took a right. Typically they come in from the other end of the street. Does not feel it is a big problem with truck traffic on this street, does not occur that often, pole has been in place for a couple of years and has not been hit. No signage will prevent this, the pole there is just a marker pole, it is not going to stop anything. Suggested finding a piece of granite that is big enough to place there, back somewhat from the corner to make them go further out.

John Connors referred to the not so old brick sidewalks in this area and all of the trucks on the right side of that street park on them and the sidewalks are being destroyed.

**MOTION** made by Deputy Police Chief DiSesa to place on file and revisit this should another incident happen. To have the Department of Public Works place a piece of granite big enough to place there. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (E) **Intersection of Wilson & Lafayette Rd.** – Request for Walk Signal to have Left Turn Light be Red instead of Green and concern of flag in center island obstructing sight distance – Steve Parkinson stated two issues, one was the black flag sticking out at the island which is now gone. The other part is the same problem we had as before, the fact that it is not a dedicated pedestrian cycle at the lights. We have sent letters to the state, looked at this a number of times and got them to move one of their signs that says “Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalks” will always be an issue, the state is not willing to put in a dedicated pedestrian cycle because it impedes the main line flow which is their concern.

**MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to accept the letter and place on file. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

**(C) OLD BUSINESS:**

- (A) **Rt.1 By-Pass and Borthwick Intersection** – Lights and Traffic Congestion – Public Works Department and Police Department report back – Deputy Police Chief DiSesa stated there is a lot of traffic during the rush hour, cars turning off of Borthwick onto the By-pass tying up that intersection. It is a DOT light and we tried to have DOT address the timing of those lights. We monitor this, there is not much we can do from an enforcement standpoint. Cars are illegally making that left turn blocking that intersection waiting for the cars to clear for the light change.  
The Chair stated that it was referred to Public Works and Police Department to send a letter to the State requesting they revisit this.
- (B) **Thornton Street** – Request for Stop Sign/Four-Way Stop – Police Department report back Stealth Stat - Deputy Police Chief DiSesa presented the Committee with a map. A stealth stat was run for Thornton and Burkitt to check for car count and speed, both of which are non issues from the Police standpoint. The posted speed on Thornton is 20 MPH, average speed was 17, 85% was 22 MPH, speed is not an issue. The maximum car was 37 MPH. Burkitt speed limit is 20 MPH, average speed was 14, 85% was 18 MPH and a maximum speed of 29 MPH, speed doesn't seem to be an issue here. The map shows current existing 4-way stop signs in the area. The flow was monitored while setting up the stealth stat. Cars at Burkitt and Thornton usually slow down and people blasting through the intersection didn't seem to be a problem. People seem to be slowing down already at that intersection to begin with.

Steve Parkinson will check the regulations mandating stop signs, but there are warrants for stop signs, stop signs cannot be used for speed.

**MOTION** made by Ted Gray to accept and place on file. Seconded by Brendan Cooney. Motion passed.

- (C) **Islington Street** – Crosswalk – Resident Request – The Chair stated this has already been approved, just a matter of the weather to cooperate so that Public Works can perform the work.  
Deputy Police Chief DiSesa stated we continue to monitor this.

Deputy Police Chief stated it has been a privilege and an honor to serve on this important Committee.

Ted Gray stated it has been an honor and a privilege to have Deputy Police Chief DiSesa here, his input has been invaluable, he has been a great help and a valued member to the Committee.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary