

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. ROLL CALL: Members Present:

Councilor Ken Smith, Chairman
Fire Chief Chris LeClaire
Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer

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

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ron Cypher to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Cedars Condominium- Lafayette Rd/Route 1 - Request for crosswalk between Cedars and Wal-Mart (e-mail dated September 8, 2009) – **MOTION** made by Ted Gray to send a letter to the state asking permission. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

(B) Elwyn Road Speeding – Sign requested (e-mail dated September 22, 2009) – **MOTION** made by Ron Cypher to have the Police Department place a stealth stat there and report back. Seconded by Christina Westfall. Motion passed.

(C) South End/Marcy Street – Safety Concerns (e-mail dated September 23, 2009 together with photos) – Stuart Wisong, South Mill Street referred to the pictures he submitted along with e-mails expressing his concerns of automobiles parking in the crosswalk causing a safety hazard for pedestrians to use this crosswalk with on-coming traffic coming from 5 directions and suggested elimination of one parking space with a “No Parking” sign. Another concern is the stop sign on Marcy St. that is approximately 20-25 ft away from the intersection causing an unsafe approach for vehicles as well as visibility being restricted by bushes and low tree branches and the curve of the street further restricts visibility.

Brendan Cooney sees two issues, one is the existing crosswalk ending in the parking space and secondly, position of the stop sign and stop bar at Marcy and Pleasant Streets. Doesn't feel that the stop sign and stop bar can be changed from their current location because the stop sign had to be placed there in order for traffic coming around the curve to know there is a

stop, unless a “Stop Ahead” sign be placed there. The stop bar needs to be placed before the crosswalks and hopefully the stop bar would show people where need to stop. Doesn’t feel this should be changed. The crosswalk ending in the parking space was reviewed last year and would like to see this area studied to see if there is a way to shift the parking spaces so we won’t lose one but still accommodate a landing for the crosswalk on the west side of Pleasant St.

MOTION made by Brendan Cooney to refer to the Public Works Department for study and report back. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Debbie Finnigan respectfully disagrees with the stop sign and suggested a “Stop Ahead” sign.

MOTION made by Brendan Cooney to move the stop sign closer to the stop bar and do a “Stop Ahead” sign. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

- (D) **Thornton/Ruth Streets** – Safety Concerns - Request for 3-way stop (letter dated August 26, 2009) – Ron Cypher referred to the on-site and that the Public Works Director stated that the area was due for repaving in the near future and in order to alleviate some of the problems there to go up Thornton St. where the curve begins to put in a grassy triangle area there, thereby making Ruth St. where it comes in a 90o angle to Thornton with a single “Stop Sign” there. There was also a request to move the dead end ahead sign further down. The Chair believes this was scheduled for paving the next paving season, this spring.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to place on file until such time as the paving is done and have the Dept. of Public Works, if not on the paving schedule to report back to us. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

Kent Kirkpatrick, Ruth Street did not hear the solution and the Chair explained that this area is due for repaving in the spring and make a grassy area triangle come out to t-up Ruth St. and will put one “Stop Sign” there. Mr. Kirkpatrick explained the confusion is that the entire street there is Thornton, Ruth St. is a small dead end street, coming down the hill and turn left that is also Thornton St. Ron Cypher stated he is looking at it from a different angle from the opposite direction.

MOTION made by Ron Cypher to table until our next meeting and get a report back from Dept of Public Works with drawings of how this would work. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

Debbie Finnigan stated it is wide expansive pavement with no definition so the goal is to define the edge lines and feels it is a good idea to take a look at this and come up with a couple of solutions.

- (E) **Court/Atkinson Streets** – Safety Concerns - Request for 3-way Stop – Ted Gray referred to the on-site that there is a building at the corner of Atkinson and Court which does impede vision. Court St. is a two way street and not appropriate to put stop signs in the middle of a two-way street. Suggested finding out the number of accidents in that area.

MOTION made by Ted Gray for a report back from the Police Department. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

Ted Gray referred to Sagamore Avenue along Sagamore Court apartment complex the trees are getting low on the sidewalk and wondered if the owner of the building could be contacted to see if the trees could be trimmed up. The Chair asked Debbie Finnigan to have the Legal Dept. look into this.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary