

**PORTSMOUTH
TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
8:00 a.m. – Thursday, November 12, 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
Deputy Police Chief Steve DuBois
Debbie Finnigan, Traffic Engineer

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

Absent: Steve Parkinson, Brendan Cooney and Christina Westfall

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

IT WAS VOTED on a Motion made by Ted Gray to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting. Seconded by Ron Cypher. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- (A) Bottomline Technologies/Great Bay Community College** – Request for Crosswalk (Map and e-mail dated October 6, 2009 attached) – The Chair turned the gavel over to Ron Cypher. **MOTION** made by Ted Gray to accept their request. Deputy Police Chief Steve DuBois seconded.

Debbie Finnigan stated we need the opportunity to take another look and make sure the sight distance works and what the signage is. Grafton Drive is a very busy way into Pease and wants to make sure we do the right thing. Would like to go out at lunch time to see how many people actually cross there. The City is responsible for maintenance and will ask that Maria Stowell go out and look at this.

MOTION rescinded by Ted Gray. Seconded by John Connors.

MOTION made by Fire Chief Chris LeClaire to refer this to the Traffic Engineer for a report back. Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (B) 1001 Islington St. Apartments** – Safety Concerns – Request for a “No Parking Zone” (correspondence attached) – Ted Gray referred to the on-site and stated this is no worse than any other intersection in the City and one can view down the street. With parking as it is in the City we cannot remove parking.

MOTION made by Ted Gray to place on file. Seconded by Fire Chief LeClaire. Motion passed.

- (C) **Intersection of Miller and Lincoln Ave.** – Safety Concerns (letter dated 9/13/09 attached) – John Connors stated that over the last several years we have looked at this 3 or 4 times. Spending a lot of time there over the last few weeks noticed a lot of construction going on there, the roads are going to be dug up with gas work now and will be sewer work. Talking about parts of Miller Ave. where the hill is the elevation will be dropped down about a foot. There are quite a few things there that should be done. The flashing red yellow light is partially hidden by tree branches on northwest and southwest corners of intersection and recommend trimming branches for better visibility. The height of the light is 19 ft above road surface and could be lowered a couple of feet. The two 25 MPH speed limit signs on either side of intersection are clearly visible. Traveling southerly on Miller Ave there is one sign indicating crosswalk ahead posted near Merrimac St. approx. 500 ft from Lincoln Ave. before the crosswalks at Rockland St. and recommend adding two green signs placed on Miller Ave. by Highland St. before Lincoln Ave. same as northerly side of Miller. The signs on the pole at the crosswalk would suggest moving the two on the northerly side back from the intersection to give more notice. Coming into town there is a painted “Yield Pedestrian” sign in the middle of the road, you cannot see it and recommend repainting. Also there is no “Pedestrian Yield” sign on the other side for cars heading out of town and recommend putting one there. Lastly, the crosswalks at the intersection there are three crosswalks, most of the pedestrians on the southerly side of the intersection are Little Harbour kids. There is no crosswalk on other side of the intersection closest to town used by Middle School kids. There are crosswalks on Lincoln Ave. on both sides, one on the southerly side of Miller Ave., none of the northerly side and recommend painting another crosswalk making four crosswalks.

MOTION made by John Connors recommending trimming branches at intersection where flashing red/yellow light is; lower height of 19 ft light if necessary; add two lime green signs on Miller by Highland St., repainting “Yield Pedestrian” sign, placing one on the other side for cars heading out of town; add 4th crosswalk on northerly side of Miller Ave.

Seconded by Ted Gray. Motion passed.

- (D) **Water County** – Exiting Traffic Circulation (e-mail dated 10/26/09 attached) – Debbie Finnigan spoke with Steve Parkinson regarding this pattern as it was established long before she got here, and would like to see what it’s suppose to be and the past history.

The Chair suggested a motion to refer to Public Works for a report back. There have been a lot of changes to the intersection at the other end of Ocean Rd since then and may be the right way to send traffic now.

Fire Chief Chris LeClaire stated the route is the best option as the other way is extremely hazardous.

Ted Gray suggested an on-site for the next meeting.

MOTION made by Fire Chief Chris LeClaire to refer to Debbie Finnigan for a report back. Seconded by John Connors. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- (A) **Elwyn Road** – Police Department report back - Deputy Police Chief Steve DuBois presented a memo to the members of the Committee reporting 1945 cars traveled during a 24 hour period on November 10, 2009. Posted speed limit is 25 MPH, average speed was 28 MPH, 50th percentile 29 MPH and 85th percentile was 33 MPH.
- (B) **Thornton/Ruth Streets** – Department of Public Works report back (drawing and letter dated 10/12/09 attached) – Debbie Finnigan stated by teeing off makes it more of a neighborhood feel, suggested trying it out in the spring with cones so they can see what it would feel like before spending any money. By pushing the intersection away from the shrubs would improve site distance at this location.
- (C) **Court/Atkinson Streets** - Police Department report back – Deputy Police Chief Steve DuBois reported their accident data showed back to 2006 there were no accidents between 2006 to date at the intersection of Atkinson and Court. Debbie Finnigan will respond to the resident requesting a 3-way stop there that it does not meet warrants.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (A) The Chair informed the Committee that Brendan Cooney presented his resignation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary