

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: January 20, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – January 24, 2022 (before 5:00 p.m.)

January 24, 2022 Council Meeting

New content:

Submitted on Thu, 01/20/2022 - 13:35

Full Name

Ken Goldman

Email

kgoldman@comcast.net

Subject

Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) Pilot

Address

271 Islington Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear City Councilors,

The Islington Creek Neighborhood Parking Program (NPP) Pilot is due to expire on February 4, 2022. Looking at the City Calendar, I can see that there are no Parking and Traffic Safety (P&TS) Committee meetings scheduled between now and then. I therefore request that the City Council vote at their January 24th meeting to let this program end on February 4th, and to not extend it.

Over the last several years I have probably spoken at every P&TS meeting, neighborhood information meeting and City Council meeting where the NPP was discussed. Up to this point I have not taken a position for or against the program, I have just asked that any program that may be implemented be one that treats all residents of the neighborhood equally, which the pilot program does.

Now that we have had a six-month pilot, I believe it is time to look at the data and end the program. If you review the meetings leading up to implementation of the NPP Pilot, you will see that there was never a large groundswell of popular support for the NPP. This program has been pushed by a small number of residents and landlords who based all their arguments on past history and anecdotal information. At the meetings, an equal, or sometimes larger, group of people spoke in opposition, and there were several, like me, just asking for a fair implementation.

I could present anecdotal information for why the program is not necessary, or is creating new problems, but anecdotal information only reflects small snapshots of time and are not reliable indicators. From listening to the NPP advocates I heard that, in the past, there was a significant parking problem in the neighborhood. Perhaps that is true, but what matters is what is happening in the neighborhood today. I have lived in the neighborhood for about 4 years and have never seen any indication that the program was needed (but, again, that is just anecdotal).

Time and again, Ben Fletcher from the parking department has presented data that has consistently shown that the NPP was not necessary, and that its impact on parking has been minimal at best. The data has also shown that a large number of people are taking advantage of the Employee Parking Program at the Foundry Place Garage. I would guess that this has probably had a much greater impact on availability of parking in Islington Creek than the NPP Pilot.

As the six-month NPP pilot is almost complete, and the data has shown minimal impact, please let the NPP expire on February 4th.

As a side note, the original plan proposed in 2021 only included the streets between Bridge Street and Brewster Street, where the parking is the tightest and where I believe most of the advocates reside. It also included a gerrymander to include all of McDonough Street including the parking lot at the corner of McDonough and Rockingham. The city may want to poll the residents between Bridge and Brewster to see if they would like to continue program. Should it be decided to do this, please, DO NOT include all of McDonough as was proposed earlier, it is unnecessary and would negatively impact the availability of parking for the rest of the neighborhood.

Thank you,

Ken Goldman

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Sat, 01/22/2022 - 08:57

Full Name

John Rand

Email

johnrand1115@gmail.com

Subject

Masks

Address

140 Dearborn rd
Greenland , New Hampshire. 03840

Message

Dear City Councilors,

Given the recent CDC statements that masks, with the exception of N95, do nothing to stop the transmission of the COVID viruses or any of its variants. In fact, the labeling on mask boxes state the same thing.

My question to you is why are you continuing to enforce a mask mandate in Portsmouth?

Entire countries, including Great Britain and Ireland now have dropped their mask mandates.

Please follow the science.

I'm not a Portsmouth resident, but I do shop and dine in Portsmouth frequently. I will no longer if this unscientific, draconian mask mandate is kept in place.

Thank you.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Sun, 01/23/2022 - 14:53

Full Name

Sean Sieper

Email

seansieper@gmail.com

Subject

TSM-17-PL-59 Elwyn Park Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvement

Address

**2 Nixon Park
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801**

Message

Hello City Council members,

As part of the city's Capital Improvement Plan(CIP) the project named TSM-17-PL-59 Elwyn Park Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Improvement has been pushed out another year. The current plan to be voted on by the city council in March doesn't include funding. This was a surprise to me since last year's CIP included the initial funding to begin in the 2023 budget.

This project started well before 2017 and has included public meetings, revisions, community feedback along with a survey that shows majority support for doing something to provide safer routes to Dondero along with traffic calming measures. In 2020 a report was completed outlining possible solutions including the recommended sidewalk plan along with other traffic calming measures.

My understanding is that the funding for this project in the CIP is allocated for two years of consecutive funding. The first year release of funds is to conduct engineering studies along with planning time to accurately budget the various recommendations in the plan with the second year money allocated to do the construction. After the engineering study is completed the community would be able to provide feedback and then once a finalized plan is completed construction money would then have to be voted on in the CIP plan again to approve the actual construction funding.

When will this project be a priority and not get kicked to another budget year? We have an elementary school surrounded by hundreds of homes and can do better to provide a safer way for students to walk and ride to school each day. I encourage you to observe either drop off or pick up to see for yourselves how students walking in the road while buses and cars pass is not ideal. I have patiently waited for this project to move forward while others have taken higher priority. I get it, there's so many projects that need funds, however now is the time not to punt this to another year yet again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sean Sieper

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Sun, 01/23/2022 - 18:15

Full Name

Elizabeth Dinan

Email

dinanroom@gmail.com

Subject

Swap shed

Address

639 Maplewood Ave
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Councilors: Please consider establishing a swap shed at the recycling center. I proposed this when Tom Ferrini was mayor and received positive feedback way back then. Please bring us in line with Rye, Kittery, Durham and many other communities with swap sheds at their recycling centers - for obvious reasons. Thank you.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Sun, 01/23/2022 - 20:33

Full Name

Peter Geremia

Email

pgeremia@mac.com

Subject

Mask Directive & Covid Information

Address

315 Maplewood Ave.
Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Dear City Councilors,

This pandemic has been an ever changing situation where you MUST learn NEW information all of the time. If you do not you will be incorrectly placing unwarranted directives on the citizens of Portsmouth.

I URGE all of you to go to each of the below links. The 1st one is from a Bill Maher show guest. This guest has left leaning views, but she has become aware of the misleading information being spread. What she says is TRUTH. You need to watch with an open mind, gather information from many sources and hopefully come to the conclusion many of us already have that the worst is behind us.

Bill Maher : <https://twitter.com/claytravis/status/1484868809416753153?s=21>

Joe Rogan : <https://open.spotify.com/episode/3SCsueX2bZdbEzRtKOCeYt?si=NLaNIWntTpSJT7g9t2bzsg>

Top Docs: <https://rumble.com/voz1ya-8-prominent-doctors-and-scientist-engage-in-a-remarkable-exchange.html>

The above 3 links transcend politics and are TRUTH about what has been and is going on. I encourage you to check out the links. My goal is to educate the citizens of Portsmouth. I want to educate them to the truth so they can live their lives without the FEAR.

Thank You,

Peter Geremia

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/24/2022 - 10:25

Full Name

Kyle Engle

Email

kte2325@gmail.com

Subject

Mask Mandate

Address

24 Hunking Street

Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 03801

Message

Mayor and City Councilors,

I'm writing to state my opposition to the recently enacted mask policies within the City. As you move forward with mask mandate discussion, I ask all of you to please heed the emerging science pertaining to mask effectiveness. It is widely understood, and endorsed now by the CDC, cloth mask coverings have limited use in mitigating Covid spread. N-95 mask are better, but their effectiveness depends on correct usage, and whether users will even wear them. Personal observation shows few people are wearing N-95 mask, and even fewer are wearing them correctly.

When making policy, science and applicable data must play a large role, but common sense must also be relied upon. I was recently walking through Market Square, I happened to glance inside a coffee shop where two men were sitting near the window drinking coffee. Both had removed their masks and placed them on the table next to them. This lack of understanding of proper mask protocol is nothing new, and potentially making matters worse!

Mask mandates are becoming less-and-less the norm. Few towns on the Seacoast have any such stipulations relying solely on the individual to make their own decisions on mask use. I watched several NFL games over the weekend where thousands of fans gathered in the stands and not a mask in sight. I suggest Portsmouth, if it truly wants to show leadership, do away with all mask requirements and let's get back to the sense of normalcy we desperately want and need.

Kyle Engle

24 Hunking Street

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Yes
