

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: April 14, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – April 18, 2022 (before 4:30 p.m.)

April 18, 2022 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

**New content:**

**Submitted on Thu, 04/14/2022 - 13:45**

**Full Name**

Tom Morgan

**Email**

[tzm7@mac.com](mailto:tzm7@mac.com)

**Subject**

Zoning Obstacles to EV Charging Stations

**Address**

39 Richards Avenue

**Message**

I just had occasion to watch the video of the council's March 7 discussion on electric vehicle (EV) fast chargers, i.e. those that provide an 80% charge in approximately 25 minutes.

I applaud your intent, namely to make such charging stations available throughout our city. Kudos to all nine of you. That said, I believe that your approach is somewhat naive in one respect, namely the extent to which your own zoning ordinance undermines this effort.

Article 15 of the zoning ordinance designates banks of commercial EV chargers as a type of "motor vehicle service station."

Among NH municipalities, this EV/gasoline equivalency appears to be unique to Portsmouth.

In 2015, Tesla sought to install a 5-plug bank of fast chargers on a private parcel in downtown Portsmouth. The City declined to issue a permit, apparently because Section 10.440 of the Zoning Ordinance prohibits motor vehicle service stations in that part of Portsmouth. Tesla then installed the chargers in Seabrook. At no cost to local taxpayers.

In 2017, Electrify America (a subsidiary of Volkswagen) sought to install a 10-plug bank of fast chargers in the Portsmouth Walmart parking lot. Volkswagen was implementing a court ordered settlement (owing to their emissions fraud problem) that required them to install such infrastructure all across the US, at their expense. To date, the company has installed 700+ EV fast charger stations. Once again, Portsmouth declined to issue a permit, allegedly because the installation would have put Walmart out of compliance with the zoning ordinance's off-street parking requirements, Section 10.1110. Electrify America then installed the chargers in Seabrook. At no cost to local taxpayers.

There are no fast chargers in Portsmouth. In contrast, fast chargers have been installed elsewhere along the I-95 corridor, namely in Amesbury, Seabrook, Kittery, York, Kennebunk, Saco, Scarborough, South Portland and Portland. Portsmouth's arcane zoning ordinance has effectively prevented the installation of fast chargers. Yes, that's right, within the Boston/Portland corridor, Eco-Municipality Portsmouth is the outlier.

Your talk of a public/private partnership gives me the hives. We've all seen how that approach worked out with the McIntyre. I suggest that you abandon the public part of that equation, and simply let the private sector run with this one. Just get out of the way. Fix the zoning provisions that prevent the installation of fast chargers, i.e. Section 10.1110 Off-Street Parking, Section 10.440 Table of Uses, and Article 15, definition of motor vehicle service stations.

The City of Rochester provides us with yet another nearby example of how it's done, and done correctly. On the evening of March 7, while you were discussing a public/private partnership (to be implemented at some time in the future), the Rochester Planning Board was voting to approve a privately owned and operated 6-plug charging station. At no cost to local taxpayers.

In March 2021, I raised these issues with the prior council. To their credit, all nine councilors were supportive. City staff then failed to take action.

Well, I could say plenty more on this topic.. I applaud your good intentions. I just wish you had better guidance.

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

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**Submitted on Fri, 04/15/2022 - 15:24**

**Full Name**

Randal Leach

**Email**

[rjleach1196@yahoo.com](mailto:rjleach1196@yahoo.com)

**Subject**

Police not doing job!!

**Address**

358 Thornton St

**Message**

Police at corner of Bartlett and Thornton when semi goes by I ask why he didn't go after it. He didn't see it. WTF?

Randy leach

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

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**Submitted on Sun, 04/17/2022 - 19:01**

**Submitted by: Anonymous**

**Submitted values are:**

**Full Name**

Erik Anderson

**Email**

[andy42152@aol.com](mailto:andy42152@aol.com)

**Subject**

PDA BOD's meeting

**Address**

38 Georges Terrace

**Message**

Dear Councilors

There is a scheduled PDA BOD's meeting for April 21, 2022 @ 8:30 am at the PDA office at Pease.Tradeport. As with past practice I have reviewed the agenda material for this meeting. Executive Director Paul Brean will report on the status of Kane / PROCON development for a potential air cargo / aeronautical maintenance facility of which they have not approached PDA for any further details on their plans or impact investigations. Paul is scheduled to appear and report to the city council on Monday, April 18, 2020 and any further questions may be directed to him at that time.

The remaining meeting agenda contained no items of concern or consequence for the city of Portsmouth. If there is any item or matter that you wish to be brought before the PDA please do not hesitate to contact me.

With thanks to your time and welcome any reply.

Respectfully,

Erik Anderson

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

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**Submitted on Mon, 04/18/2022 - 11:14**

**Full Name**

Kelly Weinstein

**Email**

[kellyamweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyamweinstein@yahoo.com)

**Subject**

turf fields at Community Campus

**Address**

373 Lincoln Ave

**Message**

Good evening. My name is Kelly Weinstein. I have 2 Middle school athletes, and I'm here to advocate for more turf fields at the community campus. My kids are currently practicing Lacrosse in Newington, or they would be here as well to share in the sentiment that Portsmouth needs more turf fields for our athletes.

In addition to playing on non turf fields in Newington and Greenland, last year, the middle school field hockey team was relegated to the field (if you can even call it that) behind the library and next to the Connie Bean. It was unmowed and full of divets, and many of these kids had never played field hockey before. It was nothing short of miraculous that they returned day after day to practice in such bad conditions. While I know it is extremely difficult to arrange for all sports to get equal playing time on the High School turf, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that on one of the few times we were scheduled to have a game on the turf, at the very last minute we were moved to the grass behind the stadium and boys soccer took the turf field. This was devastating to the girls who were so excited to finally play on the turf, they had practiced daily for their games in the same

way as every other athlete had in even more challenging circumstances), and let's not forget that our Varsity Field Hockey Team won the state championship.

Portsmouth has an opportunity here to rival other districts and private schools that have better athletic facilities and fields. In asking several of the kids in the district who have left Portsmouth to attend private schools, one of the top reasons I hear over and over is because of the sports facilities and turf opportunities for potential collegiate sports participation.

Please consider the future of our athletes here and advocate for more turf fields at community campus.

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

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