

PARKING and TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONFERENCE ROOM A
CITY HALL, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, 1 JUNKINS AVENUE

Members of the public also had the option to join the meeting over Zoom.

8:30 AM

January 4, 2024

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairman Andrew Bagley called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Moment of Silence for Harold Whitehouse

II. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Acting Chairman Andrew Bagley
Vice Chairman Steve Pesci
Public Works Director Peter Rice
Stefanie Casella, Planning Department
Deputy Police Chief Mike Maloney
Erica Wygonik
Dave Allen (alternate)
Fire Chief William McQuillen
Mark Syracuse
Mary Lou McElwain

City Staff Present:

Parking Director Ben Fletcher
City Engineer – Parking, Transportation and Planning Eric Eby
Associate Engineer Tyler Reece

III. ANNUAL SELECTION OF CHAIR

[00:05:17] The selection of chairman is postponed until the next meeting. City Council has not yet had their first meeting of the year, where they will appoint the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee representative.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

[00:06:12] Mark Syracuse moved to accept the financial report dated November 30, 2023, seconded by Steve Pesci. Motion carried 9-0.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

[00:06:44] There were two speakers: Elizabeth Bratter, regarding parking, and Matthew Glenn regarding pedestrian and bicycle planning.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

(No public comment during Committee discussion without Committee approval.)

A. [00:16:07] 2 Russell Street, request for approval of on-street parking changes and loading zones on Deer Street and Russell Street, by property owner. Steve Pesci moved to approve requested changes to on-street parking on Deer Street and Russell Street as presented on approved site plans for project, with the modifications proposed by the DPW as presented, the inclusion of bike route signage at locations to be approved by the DPW traffic engineer, and the continuation of sharrows on Russell Street to Market Street. Seconded by Mark Syracuse. **On a unanimous vote, motion passed 9-0.**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. [00:49:25] Middle Street/Miller Avenue/Summer Street intersection, request for selection of preferred alternative for construction, by DPW. Mark Syracuse made a motion to select the "hybrid" option for reconstruction of the intersection, with a white edge line rather than individual space lines to delineate on-street parking, and moving the bus stop to in front of the Margeson Apartments. Seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion carried 8-1**, with Erica Wygonik voting opposed.

B. [01:15:19] Parking Principles, request to approve proposed changes to City Parking Principles, by DPW and Planning Department. Peter Rice made a motion to approve proposed changes to City Parking Principles as proposed by DPW and Planning Department, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**

C. [01:18:10] Chapter 7, Section 7-A.402, Bus Stops Designated, request to amend section to reflect current conditions, by DPW. Peter Rice moved to table the vote until there is a report back from Engineering and consensus on Market Square, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion carried 9-0.**

IX. INFORMATIONAL

A. [01:24:51] Police monthly accident report.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

[01:25:25] Mary Lou McElwain expressed concern regarding malfunctioning crosswalk lights at Middle Street and State Street. There has been an ongoing issue with malfunctioning equipment, including new equipment.

[01:28:31] Mark Syracuse read the Mayor's Jessica's Law Awareness Proclamation.

[01:31:46] Mary Lou McElwain reminded the Committee that she would like to see electric scooter and electric bicycle safety on an upcoming agenda.

[01:32:40] Erika Wygonik requested observation on safety of the intersection at the skate park.

[01:34:23] Snow notifications updates.

[01:37:17] Mary Lou McElwain requested a report on holiday parking, which Ben Fletcher is in the process of putting together.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mark Syracuse moved to adjourn, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr
Administrative Assistant
Department of Public Works