



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, July 24, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Maurice Olivier (Chair), Lindsey Williams (City Council), Dennis Munson (Clerk), Elizabeth Goldman (Vice Chair), Marn Speidel (Police), Jill Semprini (Community Services), Peter Schmidt (Alternate).

Members Not Present (Excused): Donna Benton (Planning), Michael Williams (COAST), Susan Tremblay

Members Not Present (Unexcused): Dustin Gray (Alternate)

Other City Staff Present: Erin Bassegio (Planning)

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM with Goldman presiding. L. Williams arrived at 6:09 PM; Olivier arrived at 6:15 PM.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from May 22, 2023

Motion: Munson moved, Schmidt seconded, to approve with no amendments.

Vote: Motion passed 5-0.

B. Fifth/Grove reconstruction project – staff update

This item was deferred to later in the meeting under Member Comments.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oak Street truck traffic concerns

Speidel gave an overview. The segment of Oak Street between Atlantic Avenue and Portland Avenue has been the subject of recent concerns in connection with a new residential development planned.

Jeanne Clark, 21 Elmwood Avenue, stated that Atlantic Avenue used to be the truck route prior to 2007, and then it changed. Cited overall concerns about lack of sidewalks, new development proposed with 4 new driveways. Suggested the truck route be switched to Atlantic, which is flatter. Stated she has asked the City for weed clearing and brush trimming. Stated that the traffic study from the Chinburg project is insufficient. Stated she counted 243 cars on Oak Street during one hour on a recent morning.

Speidel gave overview of the ordinance's adoption dating back to 2008 and referred to the committee's handout, the current version of Chapter 141-5C. Stated that the rationale for directing trucks to Oak Street was to bring them to the fully signalized intersection of Portland Avenue. Speidel also stated that he believed that Atlantic Avenue was restricted to trucks prior to the updated ordinance.

Schmidt stated he used to represent that district, and stated Atlantic Avenue is also not a good road for trucks. He suggested a traffic study be done.



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Goldman asked whether the proposed development would make things worse. Clark spoke about the lack of a sidewalk. She suggested a new traffic light be placed at Atlantic.

Semprini stated that moving the truck route would not solve the problem of trucks. Clark stated there is no room to walk on Oak with the lack of shoulder. Discussion ensued regarding lowering the speed limit.

Motion: Schmidt moved to endorse having a traffic study done, to involve the City Councilor representing that ward, get the City Engineer involved, review it, and see what it entails. Munson seconded.

Vote: Motion passed 4-0. (Speidel, Semprini, and L. Williams abstained)

B. Stop sign request – Governor Sawyer Lane

(Note: Discussion on this item was deferred to later in the meeting, after New Business items C and D.) Speidel read correspondence from Diana Carpinone and from Robert Ziminsky, both of 16 Governor Sawyer Lane. Carpinone's correspondence cited safety issues, children and pets in the neighborhood, delivery trucks and others speeding in the neighborhood, and cited a discussion with the City Engineer in suggesting an addition of a stop sign on the street. Ziminsky's correspondence indicated he is not in favor of a new stop sign.

Speidel noted that a stop sign has historically been posted where Governor Sawyer rejoins itself, but this is not listed in City Code. Speidel noted that the suggestion appears to be to make this intersection an all-way stop.

Motion: Goldman moved to codify the existing stop sign, but not to create an all-way stop. Munson seconded.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0 (L. Williams abstained).

C. Gage Street parking issue

Speidel gave overview of recent history on Gage Street. Development of a parcel on the south side of Gage Street had been opposed by some residents, and concerns were brought to the TAC two years ago in an effort to restrict on-street parking. An ordinance was adopted in 2021 restricting parking on both sides. This created enforcement concerns for the police department, in that there were numerous materials deliveries while the project was under construction. Now that construction is completed and the new homes are occupied, at least two residents have come forward with concerns.

Zach Morris, 7 Gage Street, stated he is a resident of one of the new construction homes and suggested that parking be allowed on one side of the street. He stated there is no room for guest parking on special occasions except on one of the other



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streets, which isn't fair to those neighborhoods. He noted that of the six streets intersecting the east side of New Rochester Road between Dover Marine and Willand Pond, Gage is the only one with a parking restriction even though all have the same approximate width.

Diane MacMillan, 11 Gage Street, stated she had been concerned about extra traffic with the new development, worries about kids and safety. She suggested that the neighborhood is close, and people could have come to ask permission for extra parking in her driveway. She commented on the nice new families in the neighborhood.

Alfonso Martinez, 9 Gage Street, complimented the process by which this issue is being brought forward for discussion. He said the challenge to asking for parking in neighbors' driveways would be unexpected visits from friends or family, and he would be uncomfortable asking all the time. He spoke in favor of allowing parking on at least one side and asked that to revisit the restriction.

Darlene Perelli, 6 Gage Street, stated that she came a couple of years ago as a matter of safety. She insisted that it was not for revenge against the developer, although it was a nightmare during construction. She stated that Gage is different from the other streets coming up from Dover Marine, in that with three new residences, it is less safe. She stated she is willing to allow parking in her driveway.

Terrence Dunn, 15 Lakeview Drive, stated when he moved in 43 years ago, it was a nice, quiet neighborhood. Two years ago, a new neighbor arrived at the corner of Gage/New Rochester. He stated that old folks (including himself) do not always agree with "progress". He stated that on any of the streets north of Dover Marine, when you turn off Route 108 you must do it right away or risk being rear-ended. He stated he is not in favor of rescinding the parking restriction, and though he is sympathetic to the new homeowners, they bought the property knowing the restriction.

Morris noted that the restriction was not in place when Dunn purchased his property, and in time Dunn and others were involved in asking for a change, so this situation was similar in that now he (Morris) is asking for a change.
Additional discussion ensued.

Motion: Speidel moved to allow parking on the south side of Gage Street only. Speidel noted that this would essentially only allow up to three vehicles; one in front of #11 and two in front of #13, due to the number of curb cuts on the south side of Gage. Munson seconded.

Vote: Motion passed 6-0 (L. Williams abstained).

Additional discussion ensued regarding the property at the corner of New Rochester/Gage, where residents contend that the resident has added one or more



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driveways that were not permitted. Semprini noted that staff is aware of this issue and that it is within the Zoning Administrator's purview. Someone asked what would happen if these driveways were removed, since cars would likely now park near New Rochester Road. Speidel stated that the proposed ordinance revision would stipulate a buffer of 40' minimum – twice the normal 20' buffer - on the south side from New Rochester.

Schmidt moved to reconsider, but no one seconded.

D. East Coast Greenway – Proposed Alternative Route (Dover)

John Wyeth, 7 Roosevelt Avenue, represents the Community Trail Advisory Committee. He gave a presentation on the East Coast Greenway, which is in various stages of design and planning and which would stretch from Maine to Florida. Each state has a coordinator helping to implement the ECG – New Hampshire's is employed by the NHDOT. Wyeth presented slides showing potential alternatives to allow a continuous bicycle connection from Newington through Dover to South Berwick, and showed how portions of the Dover Community Trail could serve as segments of this connection. Wyeth asked the committee to look at the options and be prepared to endorse one.

Tabled to the September meeting.

E. Crosswalk request – Glenwood / Whittier / Plaza intersection

Speidel gave an overview of a resident's request to add a new crosswalk across Glenwood Avenue connecting the sidewalk from Plaza Drive to the new sidewalk at Whittier Street and along the south side of Glenwood. Discussion ensued.

Consensus was for staff to continue to study and review this request.

F. Central Avenue @ Trakey Street – sight distance concern

Discussion ensued regarding the apparent lack of adequate sight distance for traffic looking left attempting to exit Trakey Street. Speidel noted that a utility reconstruction project is planned for this segment of Central Avenue that includes a prepared design plan for the surface street. The status of funding for this project is uncertain. Goldman moved to restrict at least a single parking space along Central Avenue north of Trakey. No one seconded. Goldman withdrew the motion and stated she would review this and potentially bring it forward later.

4. CITIZENS FORUM

Kean McDermott, 128 Back River Road, had positive comments about the East Coast Greenway project.



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5. MEMBER COMMENTS

Semprini gave an update on the Fifth/Grove reconstruction project (Old Business item B). A neighborhood meeting was held recently. At the meeting, residents expressed concerns about turning out of Fifth Street onto Fourth Street, which might necessitate additional parking restrictions on the north side of Fourth Street that is not included in the project. Staff will review this and bring it forward if the TAC needs to consider a formal restriction.

Semprini gave an update on other projects:

- Hough Street closure due to culvert replacement
- Durham Road work near the fire station (new medical office facility) connecting a utility that would result in temporary lane shifts later in August
- Smith Well Road water main project – will result in a detour of Glenwood Avenue for a water line that will utilize Glencrest and Horne Streets
- Court Street emergency sewer main replacement project – single lane alternating detour during work hours, but may result in full closures in the next few weeks
- Waterfront development project and work in the River Street area will increase truck traffic in the area

Schmidt inquired whether recent rains were having adverse effect in Dover, in the form of high water or concerns for overflow of rivers. Semprini responded that Dover was spared much of the damage that the flooding has caused in other parts of the state.

6. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was tentatively identified as September 25, at 6:00 PM.

7. ADJOURN

Goldman moved, Munson seconded, to adjourn at 8:25 PM. Motion passed unanimously.