



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Police Department community room, 46 Chestnut Street
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 27, 2023**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members present: Maurice Olivier (Chair), Dennis Munson (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth Goldman (Clerk), Marn Speidel (Police), Donna Benton (Planning), Jill Semprini (Community Services), Michael Williams (COAST). Lindsey Williams (City Council) arrived at 6:15 PM

Members Not Present (Excused): Susan Tremblay, Peter Schmidt (Alternate)

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

1. ROLL CALL

Olivier called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from November 28, 2022

Motion: Munson moved, M. Williams seconded, to approve. No amendments were proposed.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0.

Review/approval of minutes from February 13, 2023

Motion: Munson moved, M. Williams seconded, to approve. Speidel noted amendments to the Deputy City Manager's title in two places.

Vote: Motion passed 7-0.

B. Lexington and Cushing Street speed concerns

Liz Whelan, Lexington Street resident, addressed the committee. Whelan stated she wants to keep the issue moving forward, particularly with the onset of spring weather. Semprini stated that staff is looking to collect new data through the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and stated that bump-outs at the Washington Street end of the streets would require more evaluation. Whelan stated that her opinion and that of her neighbors is that the bump-outs are ineffective, but stated they would still be open to them if incorporated at mid-block points, not just at the ends. She inquired about removable speed bumps. Additional discussion ensued. Speidel stated that the committee should still keep this issue as an old business item.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Citizen correspondence RE: downtown traffic plan

Speidel gave an overview of resident Tony McManus' letter to the TAC, and indicated that it is appropriate for the committee to recognize the correspondence. Speidel said that staff had forwarded the correspondence to the downtown project consultant, and that it dovetails into agenda item B.

B. Staff update on Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Access Improvements project



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M. Williams asked a question about what is happening with prior correspondence that he had sent on behalf of COAST. Semprini stated that the consultant has received this, and wants to set up a specific meeting for further discussion with COAST. Speidel also noted that he had a few public safety concerns to share, and that staff would further engage the consultant.

C. Crosswalk request – New Rochester Road

Speidel gave overview of a citizen's email expressing the desire for a crosswalk to allow residents on the west side of New Rochester Road to access the Willard Pond area. Semprini stated that the particular location suggested by the citizen would not be safe due to limited sight distance, but the concept of a mid-block crossing at Willard Road with an RRFB system had been discussed with NHDOT in connection with the state's Route 108 Corridor project. Semprini stated that she would continue to liaison with NHDOT in connection with the ongoing corridor project, and a public presentation on the project has yet to be scheduled.

D. Crosswalk requests – Stark Avenue and Birchwood Place

Correspondence from a citizen pertaining to suggested new crosswalk locations in the area of Central Avenue and Birchwood Place, and Stark Avenue, was recognized. Staff had already acknowledged and replied to the concern, and Community Services Director Storer has confirmed that at present there are no immediate plans to install a new uncontrolled crosswalk at either location.

E. Citizen request – Deer Crossing sign (Oak Street)

Speidel gave overview of a recent service request to install a Deer Crossing sign on Oak Street. As documented in an email shared with the committee, Speidel stated that the City's practice to date has been to refuse to install these signs. Speidel cited reasoning that there is no empirical evidence that such signs actually help prevent deer collisions, that the MUTCD warns against overuse of warning signs, and that with the City being moderately wooded, documented deer collisions would yield no less than 20 to 25 locations where these incidents have occurred in the last 10 years. Speidel asked whether the TAC is in agreement with the City's practice.

Motion: Benton moved, Goldman seconded, to endorse the City's practice of rejecting requests for Deer Crossing signs.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

F. Emerald Lane parking and traffic – Chapter 141 ordinance additions

Speidel stated that the police department had recently been asked to enforce parking restrictions on Emerald Lane, and determined that the one-side restrictions that were posted in accordance with the neighborhood site plan had not been added to City



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Code. Additionally, City staff were asked to replace a damaged stop sign and noted that the intersection is not listed in the schedule of stop intersections in Chapter 141. Speidel noted that this occurs when the City accepts a private road as a public street; usually any such restrictions go before the Council as “endorsed” by the Planning Board in connection with an approved site plan. In this case, since so much time has passed, the issue is before the TAC for endorsement. Speidel also noted that he had been in contact with the homeowner’s association president, who provided assurance that the association still supports the restrictions as posted.

Motion: Benton moved, Munson seconded, to endorse adding the posted parking restrictions and stop signs on Emerald Lane to City Code. Speidel stated that this would include stop signs on Emerald @ Littleworth, Emerald @ Emerald Circle, and a nearby stop sign on Susannah’s Crossing @ Ezra’s Way that is missing from the Code.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

G. Traffic control devices – Chapter 141-3 proposed ordinance addition

Speidel stated that in the course of preparing the City’s traffic signal project, the City Attorney expressed the opinion that signalized intersections have the same qualification as stop and yield intersections per Chapter 141-3; the City Council has the authority to designate them. While the Code lists public stop and yield intersections, it does not list signalized intersections. Speidel stated that he is working with the City Attorney’s office to draft an ordinance revision that adds all City-maintained signalized intersections to Chapter 141, and asked for the TAC’s endorsement of this.

Motion: Munson moved, M. Williams seconded, to add all City’s maintained signalized intersections to an appropriate schedule in Chapter 141.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

H. Election of Chair

Motion: Speidel moved, Benton seconded, to nominate Olivier to continue to Chair the committee.

Vote: Motion passed 8-0.

I. Appointment of Vice Chair and Clerk

Olivier expressed concern about the nature of appointing members of the committee not being a democratic process. Speidel noted that these appointments are specified in the TAC’s Operating Rules, and stated that the Chair is authorized to use whatever means he feels appropriate to determine how to make those appointments. Additional discussion ensued. Goldman offered to be Vice Chair. Munson offered to be Clerk. Chairman Olivier appointed Goldman as Vice Chair and Munson as Clerk.



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4. CITIZENS FORUM

Olivier addressed a citizen who had been present for the meeting and welcomed him to provide any comment. Mark Colonna introduced himself as a City staff member with the Facilities and Grounds Division and said he was simply observing the process.

5. MEMBER COMMENTS

L. Williams stated that in her role as member of the Council's Appointments Committee, she is open to looking at the Operating Rules for any necessary revisions to include the committee makeup. Discussion ensued on the School Department's role as outlined in the Operating Rules.

L. Williams stated she has heard concerns from citizens with respect to the crosswalk at 400 Central Avenue and pertaining to one-way violations in the downtown.

Goldman asked why the traffic signals at Silver/Locust do not have an audible countdown like others along the Central Avenue corridor. Semprini explained that the audible countdown is usually incorporated in areas where persons with disabilities are known to frequent, and that the controller at this intersection likely does not support this upgrade now. Semprini stated that a more thorough review of the City's traffic signal system is ongoing with the selection of consultant Sebago Technics.

6. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was tentatively identified as May 22, 2023.

7. ADJOURN

Munson moved, Benton seconded, to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.