



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Hall Auditorium
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 28, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Karen Weston (Chair), Jack Flick, John Scruton, Maurice Olivier, Marn Speidel (Police), Bruce Woodruff (Planning), Ben Clark (Asst. City Engineer)

Members Absent: Dennis Munson

Others Present: Peter Schmidt, Alternate (arrived at 6:10), Jeremy LaRose, COAST (arrived at 6:15), Dustin Gray, Garrison School principal (arrived at 6:25), residents D. Medbery (arrived at 6:10), R. Hebbard, M. Hebbard

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/Approval of minutes from February 28, 2011

Woodruff moved, Clark seconded, to approve as drafted. Motion passed 7-0.

Speidel volunteered to keep the minutes for tonight's meeting in the absence of Munson.

B. Discussion on possible recommendation regarding closing one end of Old Rochester Neck Road, a Class VI highway for safety reasons (resident request)

Woodruff gave an overview of the concern that was made by an abutting resident, Mr. Don Medbery, which revolves around trespassing on abutting property. Brox Industries, which owns abutting property, has no problem hanging signs and designating Mr. Medbery as its agent. Woodruff stated that it was the Planning Department's position that Old Rochester Neck Road cannot be closed completely. Medbery stated that he has called police on 4-5 occasions, found people sleeping, tent, cars, tiki torches, used condoms, and an array of nuisances. He stated that GPS systems still show that the bridge connecting to County Farm Road. He stated that a sign is needed at the end of the street that it is not a thru road. He stated that David Cluff of Brocks Industries has appointed him (Medbery) to erect No Trespass signs for him. Weston posed a question to Speidel about the legal difference between trespasses vs. loitering.

Weston asked what else there was for this committee to consider if the no trespass signs were going to be put up. Woodruff stated he strongly recommends No Thru Traffic signs on Covered Bridge Lane as well as Old Rochester Neck Road. Schmidt stated that public land should not be posted no trespass, but stated he supports a No Thru sign on Covered Bridge. Discussion and clarification on location of these No Thru signs: Covered Bridge and Old Rochester Neck at intersection with Glen Hill Road. Speidel stated that the standard sign for this use is "No Outlet". Woodruff stated that the signs should say "No Access to County Complex, Bridge Out".

Weston asked for a motion. Olivier moved, Scruton seconded, to recommend that Community Services erect "No Outlet" type signs at two locations. Discussion ensued: city



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staff will clarify the proper language for the signs. Schmidt stated that this is an urgent matter and asked that this be reflected in the minutes for Community Services to follow up. Motion passed 7-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Safety concern at Locust Street at Nelson Street – sight distance vs. on street parking on Locust (citizen concern)

Speidel gave overview of concern on behalf of resident Paula DePlanche, who is an office manager in the Lincoln Building. Speidel stated that police department handled a recent collision here between a vehicle pulling out of Nelson Street vs. a southbound vehicle on Locust. Woodruff stated that grade is an issue here; approaching cars are coming from below grade, plus motorists are speeding to get to the signal at Silver Street. Woodruff stated he recommends that the parking bay be knocked back to create more space and sight distance. Weston asked whether Engineering could review and recommend a distance to restrict the parking. Clark acknowledged. Flick asked whether Nelson Street could be changed to one way westerly. Speidel stated that the police department would support that concept. Discussion ensued. Woodruff stated that a change to one way would need to have a neighborhood meeting. Woodruff stated that engineering should review and report back. Flick stated that this is a potentially viable way to address Dover's intersection concerns in a number of areas. Woodruff moved, Clark seconded, to table this matter pending an Engineering review, to be revisited at April meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

B. Discussion on policy formation for special event permits requiring road closures and/or traffic control (Police Department concern)

Speidel handed out a prepared summary listing the times and dates of a number of proposed 2011 events. The list includes 11 separate 5K or 5 mile road races, and at least 5 other events with large scale attendance and/or street closures. Speidel noted that in 2007, there were only two road races in Dover and that number has grown to as many as ten within the span of three years. Speidel described the process by which "parade permit" applications were vetted by the City's Licensing Board and police department, and then formally approved by the Dover City Council. Speidel stated the police department's function was limited to providing technical review of traffic implications for any event, to provide for a number of police officers who would be required to manage that traffic, and evaluate whether the proposed road closures could be safely managed logistically. To that end, there is no formal policy on how many events or how many road closures were acceptable over a given period of time. Speidel stated that Chief Colarusso had suggested having this committee discuss the issue to determine whether it is appropriate to adopt some sort of policy governing these special events. Discussion ensued.

Woodruff stated that this is the sort of use that the Community Trail was designed for. He also suggested that these events be coordinated with COAST. Flick stated that he was



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concerned with having so many road closures on transit routes. He suggested some sort of tiered setup based on longevity. LaRose stated that COAST service is very limited on weekends and most of the closures on this list do not affect COAST. COAST will work with PD on any of these events if there are service disruptions. LaRose stated that from an economic development perspective, there should not be a cap on these events if they are bringing people into the community. He stated that Dover is the fastest growing community in NH. Resident Rick Hebbard stated that as far as he sees it, people come, do their run, then leave and they rarely purchase anything. R. Hebbard stated that it would be nice to get races up to the County Farm Road area, and that he has concerns with pedestrians not using crosswalk and disobeying the law. R. Hebbard stated he takes umbrage with Sgt. Speidel allowing a traffic volunteer on Back River Road with no experience. Mary Hebbard stated she thinks it's a mistake to the police department not to consider disruption to neighborhoods. She stated that we have hundreds of cars per day and we're lucky if we get a weekend with no events. Events disrupt severely. She stated she was also concerned with volunteers having no training. She stated that runners think they own the road (not specifically in a road race) but the police department never enforces. When parade request goes to Council, Council doesn't know background or implications.

Flick stated that the committee should come up with guidelines. Scruton stated that we should get Gary Bannon in on this. Woodruff stated that we should frame the discussion to a couple of alternatives, including an alternative to take no action. Dustin Gray stated that these are community events and that the city should be careful setting limits on them. Discussion ensued.

Clark moved, Flick seconded, to table this matter to be revisited at April meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

4. MEMBER COMMENTS

Scruton stated he wants seasonal weight limits on roads, and wants an agenda item to discuss why and what we are doing to protect our roads. Weston suggested we invite Doug Steele to a meeting. R. Hebbard stated that the road agent in the city is the City Manager, not the Community Services Director. Flick stated that he wants to consider this but not to overload the April agenda. Scruton stated that this is a good time to talk about it while the spring thaw is occurring. Discussion ensued. Speidel suggested that "special events" item be moved from April to May meeting, making room for discussion on seasonal weight limits at the April meeting. General consensus was that this would be the case.

Flick stated that he wants information on safety factors between shoulders vs. sidewalks. He stated that there must be some information out there about this and it might help to address Scruton's repeated concerns. Clark stated that it depends where. Discussion ensued. General consensus was that this should be an agenda item for the April or May meeting.

Woodruff stated that Route 9 (Littleworth Road) bridge work will start up again today. Woodruff also asked what happened to Peter Nealley's list of issues regarding school



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transportation safety and Back River Road. Speidel and Weston stated that they thought the issues had been addressed point by point at a previous meeting. Woodruff stated that he had attended the New England Parking Council's spring conference last week. The theme was: "Got Innovation?" Woodruff stated that he would bring some integration ideas forward. He mentioned a "street smarts program" (cycling) that he would bring to TAC.

Scruton stated that in Canada, pedestrians point when they want to cross the street.

Weston stated she had customers in the store ask whether there was transportation from the Grimes lot (Portland Avenue) to downtown. LaRose stated that there are new signs and that COAST provides intracity service to connect this lot to downtown. LaRose offered to provide signs for Weston and other merchants to put up in their stores to promote the service.

Scruton stated that Sixth Street was a gold-plated project; now in less than 6 years, the pavement is breaking up.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

April 25, 2011 @ 6:00 PM. Speidel will try to reserve second floor conference room (outside Finance Department).

6. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM