



CITY OF DOVER

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall
Meeting Date: **Monday, March 25, 2013**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

1. ROLL CALL

Weston called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members present: Councilor Karen Weston (Chair), Jack Flick, Marn Speidel (Police), Maurice Olivier, Dennis Munson, Jeremy LaRose (COAST), Chris Parker (Planning), Dustin Gray

Members absent: Ben Clark (Community Services), Peter Schmidt (Alternate)

Others present: Several residents were present regarding the Watson/Sandpiper issue. Those who spoke are identified below.

Speidel moved, Munson seconded, to move directly to New Business item A. Approved 8-0. Discussion ensued, see notes below. Notes appear in the agenda sequence.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review/approval of minutes from February 25, 2013

LaRose moved, Munson seconded, to approve with no amendments. Passed 8-0.

B. Crosswalk safety concern at Portland Avenue and Rogers Street

Parker gave an overview and produced a sketch that had come from Clark. Parker stated that we should look at a holistic view of crosswalk and pedestrian issues, hire a consultant to review the entire City, and then start incrementally funding for improvements through the CIP. He stated there is also an education component that people should drive like they live on the street. Flick stated that this body needs to send a message to the Council for their deliberation. Neighborhood issues keep popping up and at least we are doing due diligence as a committee. LaRose stated that Portland Avenue was designed at a time when the mantra was to maximize capacity and speed. Parker gave overview of the downtown Traffic Safety and Efficiency Study. Olivier asked whether TAC should be more aggressive as advocates. Weston noted a crossing safety problem further up the street by the ice arena. LaRose moved to table this item indefinitely. Motion passed 8-0.

C. Chapter 166 revisions – staff update

Speidel informed the committee that staff has been working with the city's general legal counsel and the ordinance committee to review Chapter 166 and other sections of the code. Speidel gave an overview of matters requiring updates: street name changes, proper ordinance number formatting, and removal of stop/yield references where intersections are now signalized; deleting references to private driveways (ex. – McIntosh College). Speidel asked for endorsement of the following:

- 1) Merging of Schedules B and H (166-49 and 166-55) for clarity
- 2) Elimination of on street parking restriction on Rutland Street by the old Dover Bingo hall
- 3) Formally adopt three-way stop at Henry Law and George Streets
- 4) Formally adopt yield sign at Washington and Main

Parker moved, Olivier seconded, to endorse these changes and to entrust Speidel to complete the changes with the ordinance committee. Approved 8-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parking concerns near Watson Road and Sandpiper Drive

Speidel showed a schematic of the intersection, gave an overview of the concern, and reminded the committee that this issue had originally been discussed at July 2011 meeting. Weston asked about historical aspect of the bridge. Parker stated that the City has met its obligation for the grant and that the



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bridge can be disposed of. Weston asked about the status of trailhead parking. Parker stated that the contractor claims the project will be completed by the end of April, and also noted that based on conservation issues the design is down from 20 to 12 spaces.

Rick Hutchins of 24 Bayview Road explained why many of the cars park here: to fish. The Three Rivers Stocking Association is a 501C3 nonprofit that stocks fish in the Cocheco, Isinglass, and Lamprey Rivers for fishery in fall and winter. Catch and release with barbless hooks. Hutchins stated that this is one of the premier trout fishing rivers in the state. He spoke about Fish and Game access for frequent monitoring, and a concern that the north side of the bridge doesn't allow for quick access for enforcement. He stated he would like to see something arranged on one side of the road, either where the old bridge is, or the other side, because not everyone can make the trek from the Community Trailhead lot. He cited safety concern of pedestrians walking over the bridge. Fishermen always clean up litter and keep eye out for juvenile issues.

Robert Puth of 41 Cataract Avenue gave a history of fishing on the Cocheco River. From the cleanup initiative 20 years ago, to State survey 7-8 years ago, to experiment of stocking it 5 years ago. He stated that walking range for fishermen is limited in hip waders.

Speidel noted that the police department has posted temporary parking restrictions around the intersection, and invited further comment from the public on how those restrictions have affected the traffic flow.

Gary Rovack of 18 Sandpiper Drive commended the police and the committee for the attention to this issue. He cited an uptick in activity recently with the growth and popularity associated with fish stocking of this river. Rovack stated that this started with a safety issue with 4-6 cars on the road up to the intersection and parked right on top of the stop sign, which makes it difficult inching out onto Watson Road. Cited concern of speeding vehicles on Watson Road. He stated he is not against the fishing activity, but suggests there should be better collaboration between the City and State and such groups. Concerned with potentially diminished property values with the number of cars parked in the area.

Brian Swenson of 10 Sandpiper Drive stated that the City will get sued if someone gets struck while walking across the bridge, stated he is putting the City on notice.

Robert Puth spoke again, stated that property values should actually be improved by the concept that this is a valuable trout fishing spot.

Bill Cote of 21 Littlehale Road in Durham stated he had fished 100 days straight last fall. He stated that no one disputes that there have been some incidents, but generally almost all who fish are considerate and try to park in a safe manner. Parking on the north side is inadequate and the only good access to this area is on the south side. He stated that during winter it is difficult, but during summer there is plenty of room to get off the road. He stated that a compromise can be reached here. He asked whether the City could enhance the parking around the pump station and whether the removal of the old steel bridge could make more space available for parking.

Flick noted that people are speeding on Watson Road. Flick asked for clarification on the speed limit. Flick spoke of effective barriers to speed and asked for a timeline on removal of the old bridge (Parker stated hopefully 1 year). Parker stated that 1.5 million for improvements to Watson Road is scheduled for



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2017. Parker noted that there is a concern with how to mitigate the grade of the hill, that this would be an environmentally sensitive parking area, and that the bridge is not designed for pedestrian traffic. Flick asked whether we should consider a speed limit reduction.

Beatrice Randall of 55 Sandpiper Drive stated that hers was one of the first houses on Sandpiper, and of the past 12 years, this past year has been the worst for safety issues surrounding activity in the area. Randall spoke about construction vehicles also using Sandpiper Drive. She stated that when police perform enforcement, the speed problem is ameliorated for a short time, and then it reappears.

Parker moved, LaRose seconded, to table this issue to the May meeting. Discussion continued among the committee members about the feasibility of “reduced speed” signs. Consensus was to leave the no parking signs in place until the May meeting.

B. MEMBER COMMENTS

Parker invited all committee members to an April 30 meeting for an open meet-and-greet among all land use boards, to help foster increased communication among the boards and committees.

Weston spoke about traffic and speed concerns on French Cross Road. She suggested we need to increase education in this area. She also requested traffic count and speed data for this road. Speidel stated he would send it.

Flick asked what had happened with the Preble and Twombly concerns. Staff had been tasked with meeting with the fire department to seek further input. He suggested that this be put on a future agenda. Speidel stated that staff had followed up with Fire Chief Driscoll and that staff wasn't planning to pursue the matter further.

LaRose asked for the status of stop signs at Ham and Park Streets. Speidel stated that an ordinance revision was in the works but that it was to be timed to authorize the contractor at the Dover Street project to pay for the improvements.

Parker gave an overview of construction improvements at the Washington and Arch Street intersection.

Speidel passed along a concern from former commissioner John Scruton regarding the design of the Tolend Road reconstruction project.

Speidel also stated that he would not be able to attend the April meeting. Discussion ensued and it was the consensus that the April meeting would still be scheduled.

C. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date was confirmed for April 22, 2013 at 6:00pm.

D. ADJOURN

Munson moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM, LaRose seconded. Motion passed 8-0.