

**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**

**September 7, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Andrew Bagley called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

Members Present:

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

City Staff Present:

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

[00:06:43] Chairman Bagley noted that Harold Whitehouse has resigned his position on the Committee, and Dr. Erica Wygonik is now a full Committee member. We are in the process of appointing a new alternate.

**III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

[00:07:02] Mary Lou McElwain moved to accept the Financial Report dated July 31, 2023, and place it on file, seconded by Peter Rice. **Motion carried 9-0.**

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 MINUTES)

This is the time for all comments on any of the agenda items or non-agenda items.

1. [00:07:43] There were eleven speakers: Francesca Marconi-Fernald, Steve Marison, and Esther Kennedy spoke regarding parking on Mechanic Street. Susan Alex spoke regarding notifying residents of changes. Greg Hebert spoke about crossing Lafayette Road from Hillside Drive. Sue Polidura spoke regarding private parking lots resembling City lots. Liza Hewitt spoke on several subjects including speeds on Middle Road, parking on Mechanic Streets and High Street, and outdoor dining effects on parking. Petra Huda spoke regarding parking on High Street. Barbara Destefano spoke in favor of Mark McNabb's improvement plans on High Street. Robin Rousseau (Z) spoke against these plans and spoke regarding snow parking ban procedures. Justin Richardson (Z) commented on the speed bumps on Woodbury Ave.

#### V. PRESENTATIONS

[00:35:53] High Street, Ladd Street and Haven Court, proposed street improvements by developer of 1 Congress Street, by Ambit Engineering.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

[01:09:36] Peter Rice moved to bring forward item B. under new business, seconded by Erica Wygonik.

- B. High Street, request for report back and recommendation on proposal to remove parking spaces and loading zones between Congress Street and Ladd Street, by City Council. Peter Rice made a motion to do a site walk and refer to staff for further evaluation and report back. **Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**
- A. [01:22:49] Portwalk Place, request for renewal of valet parking licenses, by business owner. Peter Rice moved to approve a renewal of valet license agreement for Portwalk, HI, LLC for a term of 1 year. Seconded by Steve Pesci. **Motion passed 9-0.** Peter Rice moved to approve renewal of valet license agreement for Parade Residence Hotel, LLC for a term of 1 year. Seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion passed 9-0.**
- C. [01:23:43] Mechanic Street, request for additional parking restrictions between Pickering Street and Hunking Street, by residents. Steve Pesci made a motion to prohibit parking on the land side of Mechanic Street between Hunking Street and Pickering Street, seconded by Mark Syracuse. **Motion passed unanimously, 9-0.**

- D. [01:37:08] Snow Emergency parking ban, request for ordinance updates, by DPW. Peter Rice moved to approve recommended changes to Chapter 7 as presented, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **On a unanimous vote motion carried 9-0.**

[01:45:19] Peter Rice moved to move IX. Miscellaneous forward in the agenda, seconded by Mary Lou McElwain. **Motion carried 9-0.**

## IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Peter Rice made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Greg Hebert to speak, seconded by Steve Pesci. **On a unanimous vote, the motion passed 9-0.**

Greg Hebert provided information on behalf of the Hillside Drive neighborhood regarding pedestrian crossing of Lafayette Road, which was discussed.

Erica Wygonik moved to refer to staff to study and report back including legal review, and short- and long-term solutions. Peter Rice seconded. **On a unanimous vote, the motion passed 9-0.**

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [02:03:16] Sagamore Avenue, request for bicycle lanes and No Parking from Shaw Road to Wentworth House Road. Peter Rice made a motion to prohibit parking along both sides of Sagamore Avenue between Shaw Road and Wentworth House Road and to revisit marking of bike lane after upcoming roadway widening project north of Shaw Road. Seconded by Steve Pesci. Motion contingent on no issue with businesses in this location. **Motion unanimously passed 9-0.**
- B. [02:05:20] State Street 2-Way traffic study, request for report back on status, by City Council. The memorandum is being finalized and should be ready for this committee to review next month.
- C. [02:05:38] Marcy Street, further discussion of pedestrian crossings and vehicle speeds. Peter Rice moved to place on file, seconded by Steve Pesci. **Motion carried 9-0.**

## VIII. INFORMATIONAL

- A. [02:06:01] Monthly Accident Report
- B. [02:06:21] South Mill Street and Pickering Avenue intersection parking restrictions. This will be added as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- C. [02:09:12] Deer Street developments' construction impacts.

D. [02:12:16] Woodbury Avenue speed cushions update.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS**

[02:16:17] Erica Wygonik would like to address bicycles crossing South Street at the intersection of Elwyn Avenue and Clough Drive, by students going to and from Little Harbour School.

[02:20:32] Mary Lou McElwain would like to address electric scooter use on sidewalks.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Erica Wygonik moved to adjourn at 10:47 a.m., seconded by Peter Rice. **Motion carried 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Leila Birr  
Administrative Assistant  
Department of Public Works