



**FREEPORT TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

PRESENT: Gary Profenno (Chair) Susan Nourse, Police Chief
Bob Fusselman Rodney Regier
Cliff Goodall Adam Bliss, Town Engineer

ABSENT: Ann-Marie Davee Chris Parker (Excused)
Jim Gorman

I. October Meeting Minutes

- A. Mr. Profenno stated the October meeting minutes should be revised to reflect Mr. Gorman as absent.
- B. Chief Nourse motioned to accept the October meeting minutes as revised; Mr. Fusselman seconded the motion; all approved.

II. Discuss pedestrian safety on Snow Road

This item was brought to the committee from a Snow Road resident out of concern for pedestrian safety. Safety issues have arisen because of recent construction associated with the Freeport High school addition, the use of Snow Road as a back way around Main Street, and overflow parking on Snow Road during school events. Town Manager Peter Joseph, Chief Nourse, Dr. Becky Foley (School Superintendent), and Mr. Bliss met to discuss the complaint. Several action items and comments resulted from the follow-up meeting and from the Traffic and Parking Committee meeting which are summarized below.

- A. Snow Road has 'No Parking' signage and is identified in the Town Ordinance as "No Parking" but one more sign is needed on Snow Road.
- B. An accessible space sign, also known as disabled and formerly known as handicap, is needed at the intersection of Main Street and Holbrook Street.
- C. A campus map should be posted on the schools' websites directing overflow parking to behind the high school which is accessible from Howard, Cross, and Nathan Nye Streets.
- D. A sidewalk is proposed to be constructed as part of the athletic turf field and high school addition which will improve pedestrian safety.
- E. The intersection at Snow Road and Elm Street is proposed to be rebuilt in 2018.
- F. Parking restriction signs on Holbrook Street need to be evaluated for consistency.
- G. Mr. Bliss needs to determine if recommendations made by the Traffic and Parking Committee are accurately represented in the ordinance, specifically No Parking time restrictions.
- H. There aren't any accessible parking spaces provided in the Holbrook Place parking lot behind the high school.
- I. The Project Review Board will look at accessibility parking needs during the Athletic Turf Field project review.

- J. Mr. Regier asked if the RSU No. 5 has any parking restrictions.
- K. Mr. Profenno asked if a deed with an easement exists for enforcing the portion of Snow Road owned by RSU No. 5.
- L. Mr. Goodall commented that communication between the residents and Town staff has occurred and is a good thing.

III. Discuss 2017 Public Peddler locations

This agenda item is discussed every year in November. There are 3 dedicated, council-approved public peddler cart locations.

1. Intersection of Bow Street and Middle Street
2. In front of Town Hall
3. In front of the Hose Tower on Depot Street

Mr. Goodall motioned to accept the current public peddler cart locations for 2017; Mr. Regier seconded; all approved.

IV. Discuss Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System (PACTS) funding request for study of a Divergent Diamond Interchange (DDI) and Complete Street modifications at Exit 20 and the Desert Road-Route One intersection.

A DDI interchange conceptual plan was presented 2 years ago by the Maine Department of Transportation to address congestion and improve vehicle safety on Desert Road and the I-295 off ramps. The Task Force did not vote in favor of this conceptual plan because it failed to address pedestrian connectivity across the I-295 bridge to outer Desert Road, and was perceived as a bad idea that conflicted with conventional traffic patterns. The 2016 funding study request has been approved by PACTS and will attempt to resurrect the 2013/2014 conceptual plan by including Complete Street modifications which are traffic design principles that include multi-modal transportation (e.g. bus, car, and bicycle) and update current traffic counts.

The Traffic and Parking Committee made it clear that any studies related to improving Desert Road and the I-295 off ramps must assess all options and not be restricted to a DDI interchange. The committee supports a comprehensive review of all types of potential intersection improvements including, but not limited to, a roundabout and widening of on/off ramps, among others. Ms. Donna Larson, Town Planner, confirmed that LL Bean will provide a local match and Ms. GERALYNN Campanelli confirmed the match.

Mr. Regier motioned that the Traffic and Parking Committee recognizes the need and difficulty of improving this intersection. The committee encourages a broad review of all options and that the hired traffic engineering consultant consider all alternatives, and not limit the study to a DDI interchange, for improvement of vehicular and non-vehicular users, i.e. pedestrians and bicyclists. Chief Nourse seconded the motion; the motion was voted unanimous.

V. Update by Accessibility Task Force to improve access to public facilities for people with disabilities.

There was little to report concerning ongoing efforts to improve and increase accessibility parking in the village. Mr. Goodall commented that Berenson Associates will be coming back in March 2017 with a retail development proposal near Main Street and Mill Street. Mr. Goodall motioned to table

accessibility parking studies on Mill Street until Berenson Associates comes back to the Town with their proposal while plans are under review. Mr. Profenno commented that accessibility parking near Middle Street and Mechanic Street was left off of October's agenda. Mr. Bliss agreed stating that follow-up landowner outreach and cooperation is needed to relocate accessible parking spots and construct accessible ramps on private property that connect to publicly-owned sidewalks. Ms. Jill Johanning commented that the two new accessible parking spaces in LL Bean's lot near the Hose Tower and west of the Nordica Theater are not compliant because they do not provide a van accessible striped aisle. Mr. Bliss will talk with Donna Larson about this compliance issue. Mr. Goodall commented that the ad hoc Parking Task Force should consider granting credits for striped aisles as parking spots.

VI. Other Business

- A. Mr. Regier asked Mr. Bliss to consider evaluating site lines that have low hanging trees and shrubs when covered with ice and snow. Mr. Regier identified South Street and Bow Street as a site line challenge. Chief Nourse reported a site line issue.
- B. Next meeting is scheduled for December 20th.

VII. Adjournment

- A. Chief Nourse motioned to adjourn; Mr. Regier seconded; all approved.