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CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

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Parking Committee Minutes Zone 4 Narrow Streets Study Public Forum #1 October 8, 2019

Attendees:

Byron Champlin, Chair, City Councilor
Jim Bouley, Mayor
Mark Coen, City Councilor
Brent Todd, City Councilor
Meredith Hatfield, City Councilor

Staff:

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects
Chip Chesley, General Services Director
Daniel Andrus, Fire Chief
David Florence, Parking Division Supervisor
Amanda Lombard, Fiscal Clerk - Parking Division

The meeting began at 7:02PM in the City Council Chambers.

1. **Overview of Agenda:** Councilor Champlin welcomed members of the public, provided an overview of the Narrow Streets Study, and discussed the goals and objectives of the neighborhood forum. He noted that the recommendations being presented were preliminary, and would subsequently be reviewed by the Parking Committee after receiving community input. He also discussed the Parking Committee's review process for narrow streets in other neighborhoods and explained that a second public forum would be held prior to the Parking Committee presenting any ordinances to the City Council to implement proposed changes (if any).
2. **Public Forum:** Councilor Champlin then turned the meeting over to Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects, who exhibited a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding Narrow Streets in the "Old North Cemetery Neighborhood" (Zone 4 of the Narrow Streets Study Area). The presentation provided a history of the Narrow Streets Study, definitions of narrow streets with associated graphics, an overview of streets of concern in the Zone 4 neighborhood, as well as preliminary recommendations associated therewith. At the end of the Presentation, public input was taken on a street by street basis.

- a. **Albin Street (Bradley to Rumford):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. Members of the public made various comments and suggestions. They noted that the street is too narrow for parking on both sides. Some suggested parking on one side only (possibly on the north side, as it was perceived there might be more parking capacity on that side of the road). A winter parking ban was also suggested.
- b. **Bradley Street (Franklin to Penacook):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. A member of the public suggested that there should be no parking on both sides of the road between Penacook and Perkins Street due to traffic exiting and entering Bradley Street at peak commuting times from Penacook Street.
- c. **Church Street (Bradley to Jackson):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public discussed their frustration with parkers not observing driveway and intersection setbacks. They also discussed challenges created by the hill in this area. They also requested that the City review parking regulations for that section of Church Street between Lyndon and Rumford.
- d. **Curtice Avenue (North State to End):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March15).
 - i. Members of the public noted that vehicles often park on sidewalks and that the street is too narrow to allow for parking on both sides of the road.
- e. **Franklin Street (North Main to North State):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- f. **Granite Avenue (North State to End):** Parking Committees recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
 - i. Members of the public offered several comments. Specifically, it was noted that vehicles often park on the sidewalks, thus forcing the public to walk in the street. This circumstance is especially dangerous for children. It was also noted that parkers do not abide with no parking setbacks at the North State Street intersection, thus resulting in a hazard. The public also raised concerns about the skewed alignment of the Granite Avenue / North State Street intersection and noted that the geometry makes it challenging to enter and exit the street. (The intersection was recently reconstructed as part of the Route 3 North Project). Because of the intersection geometry, several residents noted that they must exit the neighborhood from Foster and Prospect Streets. They also noted that making a left hand turn out of the neighborhood is difficult during peak commuting times. A traffic signal was suggested by residents for the Foster / North State Street intersection.
- g. **Harrod Street (Beacon to Tremont):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.

- h. **Highland Street (Jackson to Rumford):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1-March 15th).
 - i. A member of the public asked which side of the road would be proposed as no parking. Mr. Walsh stated that would be up for discussion. It was suggested that the uncurbed side (i.e. north side) would be appropriate for parking, as it allowed vehicles to get onto the shoulder of the roadway, thereby making more room for passing vehicles.
- i. **Jackson Street (Tremont to Franklin):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public stated they would like more enforcement of no parking setbacks near intersections and driveways.
- j. **Jackson Street (Franklin to Church):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road, and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public stated that increased enforcement is needed for the no parking setback at the end of the street near the intersection.
- k. **Jackson Street (Church to Highland):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- l. **Lyndon Street (Tremont to Franklin):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove parking on both sides of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- m. **Lyndon Street (Franklin to Church):** Parking Committee Recommendation: Limit parking to one side and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1-March 15th).
 - i. Members of the public testified that sections of Lyndon Street south of Franklin Street are parking on one side only; however, parkers often illegally park on both sides and that additional City enforcement is needed.
- n. **Martin Street (Albin to Walker):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- o. **Pearl Street (North Main to North State):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public noted that the street does get narrow during winter months, and supported the recommendation. She also stated that the 3 hour time limit is not adequately enforced.
- p. **Perkins Street (Rumford to Bradley):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on street parking.
 - i. Members of the public noted that the street is very narrow, but that it also gets very little traffic. They suggested limiting parking to 1 side of the road, as well as a winter parking ban from January 1 – March 15.

- q. **Rumford Street (Beacon to Franklin):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public noted that this section of the road is especially narrow and recommended a no parking ban during winter months.
- r. **Rumford Street (Franklin to Wyman):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. Members of the public raised concerns about “blind spots” associated with the large hill on Rumford. Specifically, because parking is allowed on both sides, vehicles are required to share a single travel lane. This situation is hazardous on the hill, given the blind spot issue, as vehicles driving on either side of the hill cannot see one another as they approach the summit of the hill. This situation is hazardous and should be eliminated by only permitting parking on one side of the street.
- s. **Rumford Street (Wyman to Walker):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- t. **Rumford Street (Walker to Penacook):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the street.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- u. **Tremont Street (Rumford to Jackson):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- v. **Tremont Street (Jackson to Crosby):** Parking Committee recommendation: Limit parking to one side of the road and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- w. **Tremont Street (Crosby to North State):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- x. **Walker Street (Boutin to Bradley):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on street parking.
 - i. No public testimony was received.

In addition, members of the public also offered the following general comments.

Some members of the public questioned whether the Parking Committee’s winter parking ban of January 1 – March 15 was sufficient. It was suggested that the City consider something longer, perhaps commencing in mid-November or December 1st, and ending around April 1st or April 15th. A winter parking ban with these extended timeframes was suggested for all streets in the Zone 4 neighborhood. Mr. Walsh responded that such timeframes are common in other New Hampshire communities; however, by recommending January 1 – March 15, the Parking Committee was attempting to minimize impacts on the public by having a ban, which it believed corresponded with the height of the winter season. It was also noted that the City’s first overnight winter parking ban for last winter was declared on November 18, 2018.

Several members of the public stated that many of the parking issues in the neighborhood began when the City repealed the City-wide overnight parking ban in 2008. It was the consensus of many members of the public that repealing the ban created negative consequences for the neighborhood. These have included vehicles being parked for extended periods of time, thus reducing turnover and availability. Also, parked vehicles have negatively impacted snow removal in the neighborhood.

The public also noted that the vast majority of properties in the neighborhood have on-site parking. However, parkers typically decide to use onsite parking rather than off-street parking. This causes frustration among many in the neighborhood relative to parking turnover and winter maintenance.

Members of the public also complained about vehicles disregarding parking setbacks near driveway intersections. They asked the City to install pavement markings throughout the neighborhood to help educate parkers. They also asked for increased parking enforcement.

Several members of the public stated that the City's enforcement of parking regulations was insufficient in the neighborhood. They asked the City to increase its enforcement efforts. Staff and members of the Parking Committee concurred that additional enforcement was needed and updated the public about ongoing efforts to hire additional parking enforcement officers.

Although not in Zone 4, a member of the public asked the City to consider implementing a winter parking ban on Beacon Street, as the road gets narrow when snowbanks are present.

The public also encouraged the City to declare more winter parking bans (even for smaller storm events with less snow accumulation forecasted) so streets are properly plowed.

A member of the public inquired about parking ordinances in the former Rumford School neighborhood. He specifically inquired about no parking 7AM – 3:30PM, as well as no parking 12:01AM to 7AM. Mr. Walsh noted these streets were not in Zone 4; however, these could be reviewed as part of the upcoming review of narrow streets in the Zone 1 Study Area in early 2020. Mr. Walsh noted that these ordinances are likely remnants of when Rumford School was used as an elementary school, as well as from when overnight parking was prohibited in the community.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:34PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda Lombard
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III