



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

City Manager's Office

41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301

(603) 225-8570

Thomas J. Aspell, Jr.

City Manager

Parking Committee Minutes

September 17, 2019

Attendees:

Byron Champlin, Chair, City Councilor

Jim Bouley, Mayor

Mark Coen, City Councilor

Linda Kenison, City Councilor

Staff:

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects

Daniel Andrus, Fire Chief

Chip Chesley, General Services Director

David Florence, Parking Division Supervisor

Amanda Lombard, Fiscal Clerk - Parking Division

The meeting began at 7:03PM and was held at the City Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord.

1. **Overview of Agenda:** Councilor Champlin welcomed the public and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. He noted that this was the second neighborhood forum for Zone 2 of the Narrow Streets Study Area. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to present the Parking Committee's final draft recommendations for certain streets of concern within Zone 2, as well as to receive public input related thereto.
2. **Public Forum:** Matt Walsh exhibited a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding Narrow Streets in the City Hall Neighborhood (Zone 2 of the Narrow Streets Study Area). The presentation provided a history of the Narrow Streets Study, definitions of narrow streets with associated graphics, as well as an overview of narrow streets of concern in the neighborhood and final draft recommendations associated therewith. Throughout the course of the Presentation, public input was taken on a street by street basis.
 - a. **Blake Street (North State to Green):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking (total of 8 spaces).
 - i. A member of the public stated speed is a concern, and suggested that the City consider installing a yield sign.
 - ii. A member of the public noted that there are a lot of multi-family dwellings, and, therefore, had concerns about removing parking year round. Rather, they suggested that a winter parking ban might be more appropriate.

- iii. Other members of the public stated that the street is too narrow. They supported the recommendation to remove parking. They also noted that the road is particularly narrow near the Green Street intersection.
- b. **Garden Street (Huntington to Rumford):** Parking Committee recommendation: No Changes.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - c. **Hanover Street (Centre to School):** Parking Committee recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15) and permanently remove parking along especially narrow sections.
 - i. A member of the public noted that the street is used by downtown employees as free parking during the week.
 - ii. A member of the public asked whether temporary permission would be granted to park on the street for unique circumstances (such as contractors parking during a home renovation project).
 - d. **Huntington Street (Centre to School):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking both sides of the road, and convert it to one-way south bound.
 - i. A member of the public asked whether parking in the public right-of-way would be permitted if the vehicle was not located on pavement.
 - ii. A member of the public suggested that Huntington Street (both sections) should remain open to two-way traffic; however, a winter parking ban should be implemented January 1st – March 15th.
 - e. **Huntington Street (School to Warren):** Parking Committee recommendation: Parking west side only, implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15), and convert to one-way travel south bound.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - f. **Kennedy Lane (Depot to Pleasant Ext):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove one 20 minute space located on the west side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - g. **Liberty Street (Pleasant to Warren):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking on one side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - h. **Merrimack Street (Centre to School; School to Warren; Warren to Pleasant Street):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove On-Street parking on the west side of the road.
 - i. A member of the public expressed concerns about speeds and suggested staggering on-street parking in blocks, on opposite sides of the road, in order to calm traffic.
 - ii. Members of the public suggested that pavement markings should be installed to delineate driveway setbacks.
 - iii. Members of the public lamented the amount of “cut through” traffic on Merrimack Street. They suggested the traffic is associated with the State Office Park and

- Christa McAuliffe School. The traffic is worst during morning and afternoon commuting times.
- iv. It was noted that on-street parking for the section of Merrimack Street nearest to Pleasant Street often is full on both sides of the road, thus leaving insufficient room for two vehicles to pass. Concerns were expressed about vehicles parking too close to driveways.
- i. **Orchard Street (Pine to Merrimack):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the north side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - j. **Pine Street (Centre to School & School to Warren):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the east side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - k. **Pine Street (Pleasant to Warren):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the east side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - l. **School Street (Hanover to Huntington):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the north side of the road.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - m. **School Street (Pine to Liberty):** Parking Committee recommendation: No Change
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - n. **Short Street (Huntington to Rumford):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
 - i. A member of the public noted an error with the presentation; specifically, that this section is open to two way traffic. He further suggested that a winter parking ban be implemented (January 1 – March 15) rather than eliminate parking year round.
 - o. **Short Street (Rumford to North Spring):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
 - i. Members of the public suggested that a winter parking ban (January 1 – March 15) might be more appropriate than total elimination of parking.
 - p. **Summit Street (Tahanto to Curve):** Parking Committee recommendation: No change.
 - i. No public testimony was received.
 - q. **Summit Street (Curve to School):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
 - i. A member of the public suggested that the Parking Committee review winter parking issues for that section of Summit located between School and Centre. They suggested that implementing a winter parking ban for that portion of Summit might be prudent.

- r. **Warren Street (Green to Rumford):** Parking Committee recommendation: Winter Parking Ban (January1 - March15).
 - i. No public testimony was received.
- s. **West Washington Street (Holt to Liberty):** Parking Committee recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
 - i. No public testimony was received.

Discussion also ensued about the number of winter parking snow bans the City declared last year. Chip Chesley, General Services Director, reported that the City declared approximately 12 Winter Parking Bans last year. He added that the amount of snow fall predicted for each storm impacts the quantity of bans that are called. A Winter Parking ban is generally called when there is a plowable amount of snow fall.

Some members of the public suggested that the City consider instituting a resident permit program for this neighborhood. Councilor Champlin stated that the City is actually attempting to move away from resident permits due to the cost of administering the permits.

Some members of the public stated they would like to see more parking bans or no overnight parking versus removing parking.

Some members of the public suggested that the speed limits be reduced on narrow streets.

A member of the public suggested that a blinking yellow light be installed at School Street intersections.

Members of the public expressed concerns about the Merrimack / School Street intersection; specifically, motorists failing to observe stop signs, as well as reduced sight distance due to private landscaping in the right-of-way.

Adjourned: A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Amanda Lombard
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III