



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

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City Manager

## **Parking Committee Minutes**

December 5, 2019

### **Attendees:**

City Councilor Byron Champlin, Parking Committee Chair

City Councilor Mark Coen

City Councilor Linda Kenison

City Mayor Jim Bouley

### **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

### **Absent:**

City Councilor Brett Todd (Excused)

The meeting began at 7:03PM.

1. **Overview of Agenda:** Councilor Champlin welcomed the public and introduced City Councilors and staff in attendance. He noted that this was the second neighborhood forum for Zone 4 of the Narrow Streets Study Area. Councilor Champlin explained that staff would be taking notes and providing minutes to reflect comments, suggestions, and concerns during the meeting. Councilor Champlin provided a brief overview of the Narrow Streets study project and next steps in the process for the Zone 4 neighborhood.
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). The presentation provided a brief history of the study, definitions of narrow streets with associated graphics, and Parking Committee recommendations based on input from the first presentation. Following the presentation, public comment was taken and documented.
  - a. **Albin Street (Bradley to Rumford):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the south side of the street.

- A resident commented that there are 26 spaces on the north side of the street and 22 on the south side. He previously suggested that parking be limited to the south side of the street for parking; however, after speaking with some of his neighbors, they would prefer to have parking on the north side of the street.

**b. Bradley Street (Franklin to Penacook):** The Parking Committee's recommendations:

Franklin Street to Church Street: Limit parking to east side of the street.

Church Street to Walker Street: Limit parking to west side of the street.

Walker Street to Penacook Street: Limit parking to east side of the street.

- Discussion ensued about parking between Church and Walker Streets. One resident spoke in favor of not permitting parking on the east side of the street in order to preserve the grass along the frontage of the Old North Cemetery. However, three residents spoke in favor of limiting parking to the east side of the street due to concerns about sight distance for vehicles exiting Albin Street, as well as vehicles parking too close to private driveways on the west side of the street.

**c. Church Street (Bradley to Jackson):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).

- No public testimony was received.

**d. Curtice Avenue (North State to End):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to south side of the street, and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).

- No public testimony was received.

**e. Franklin Street (North Main to North State):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to south side of the street.

- No public testimony was received.

**f. Granite Avenue (North State to End):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Remove on-street parking.

- Residents spoke in support of this change, and also discussed parking concerns in the vicinity of 7/10 Foster Street and 2 Prospect Street. This area is a 90 degree corner. It was noted that a bottle neck occurs at this location, and recommended eliminating on-street parking at this location.

**g. Harrod Street (Beacon to Tremont):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).

- No public testimony was received.

**h. Highland Street (Jackson to Rumford):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit Parking to south side of the street and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).

- Chip Chesley, General Service Director, would like to have the parking be limited to the curb side of the street, as the shoulder side would eventually break down over time.
- Multiple members of the public commented and stated they support the Parking Committee's recommendation for parking on the south side of the street, as this

will allow easier access to fire hydrants, which are located on the north side of the street.

- i. **Jackson Street (Tremont to Franklin):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the east side of the street and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 – March 15).
  - No public testimony was received.
- j. **Jackson Street (Franklin to Church):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - No public testimony was received.
- k. **Jackson Street (Church to Highland):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the west side of the street and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - A resident expressed concerns with the proposed Winter Parking Ban. She explained that some residents do not have driveways or sufficient on-site parking spots. It was noted that these vehicles would likely park on Franklin Street, or other adjacent streets.
- l. **Lydon Street (Tremont to Franklin):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
  - No public testimony was received.
- m. **Lyndon Street (Franklin to Church):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit Parking to the west side of the street and implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - A member of the public spoke in favor of this recommendation.
- n. **Martin Street (Albin to Walker):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to west side of the street; implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - A resident stated Martin Street has a lot of vehicles that park on this street. It was noted that this recommendation may result in increased parking on Albin and Walker Streets.
- o. **Pearl Street (North Main to North State):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - No public testimony was received.
- p. **Perkins Street (Rumford to Bradley):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Convert the street to one-way (east bound towards Bradley Street) and limit parking to the south side.
  - No public testimony was received.
- q. **Rumford Street (Beacon to Franklin):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
  - No public testimony was received.
- r. **Rumford Street (Franklin to Wyman):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the west side of the street; however, implement no parking near crest of the hill.

- Members of the public spoke in support of the recommendation.
- s. **Rumford Street (Wyman to Walker):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit Parking to the west side of the street.
    - No public testimony was received.
  - t. **Rumford Street (Walker to Penacook):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the west side of the street.
    - No public testimony was received.
  - u. **Tremont Street (Rumford to Jackson):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the south side of the street.
    - No public testimony was received.
  - v. **Tremont Street (Jackson to Crosby):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Limit parking to the south side of the street.
    - A resident requested that the City install pavement markings to designate no parking setbacks at private driveways. She explained that parkers often park within the 5' no parking set back, making it very difficult to egress her driveway. Because of this circumstance, she must travel the wrong way on a one way street just to exit her driveway.
  - w. **Tremont Street (Crosby to North State):** The Parking Committee's recommendation: Implement a Winter Parking Ban (January 1 - March 15).
    - No public testimony was received.
  - x. **Walker Street (Boutin to Bradley):** The Parking Committee's Recommendation: Limit parking to the south side of the street.
    - A resident reported that fire hydrants are located on the south side of the street. Therefore, she suggested that parking be located on the north side of the street to eliminate potential conflicts with fire hydrants.
3. **Other Public Input:** In addition, members of the public also offered the following general comments.

The public asked whether the Parking Committee took into consideration where fire hydrants are located when preparing their recommendations. Mr. Walsh reported that was not necessarily a factor, as no parking is permitted near fire hydrants by City Ordinance and State Law.

A resident thanked the Parking Committee for reviewing narrow streets. He also endorsed Bradley Street changes, particularly in front of the cemetery, and likes the recommendations for Lyndon Street.

Two members of the public discussed concerns about Foster Street. Specifically, they were concerned that removing parking on Granite Avenue will force more people to park on Foster Street. This is of concern as the 90 degree corner at Foster and Prospect Street is problematic, as vehicles park too closely to the intersection, thus making it difficult for vehicles to pass. They recommended removing parking at the intersection of Foster and Prospect Streets.

The public expressed concerns about emergency vehicle access on Prospect Street. A member of the public stated they recently witnessed a situation whereby a parked car had to be moved so a fire truck could make its way down Prospect Street. They suggested that parking on Prospect Street be reviewed as part of the project.

A resident inquired why the City runs a fire engine with an ambulance when responding to medical emergencies, especially for medical emergencies on narrow streets. Daniel Andrus, Fire Chief, thanked the individual for asking that question and responded that sometimes the fire engine, including the ladder truck, is the closest vehicle able to respond to a medical emergency depending on emergency call volumes. Thus, a fire engine may respond in order to provide emergency medical services as quickly as possible.

A resident expressed concerns about vehicles parking on the sidewalks. He indicated that he would like the City to enforce its ordinances prohibiting this practice. Mr. Walsh agreed that such behavior is problematic and illegal. He reported that the Parking Division has been short staffed for some time, which has hindered neighborhood parking enforcement. However, the Parking Division recently filled two of three vacant Parking Enforcement Officer positions, and the City will be increasing neighborhood parking enforcement in the coming weeks. Mr. Walsh encouraged those in attendance to call the Parking Division to report neighborhood parking concerns.

Mayor Bouley encouraged those in attendance to take pictures of illegal parking activity when making reports to the Parking Division.

Councilor Champlin closed the meeting by thanking those in attendance for participating in the process. He provided a brief overview of next steps in the process. Specifically, he explained that the Parking Committee will meet on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to review the input from this meeting, and make potential refinements to their recommendations accordingly. The Parking Committee will then forward their recommendations to the City Council, who, in turn, will hold public hearings on ordinances to implement these changes. Public hearings on said ordinances will likely be in February or March. The ordinances will then be implemented in the spring, once snow melts and the ground thaws, thereby allowing for installation of required signage and pavement markings.

4. **Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Lombard  
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III