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City Manager

# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
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## **Parking Committee Minutes August 30, 2021**

### **Attendees:**

Byron Champlin, City Councilor, Parking Committee Chair  
Linda Kenison, City Councilor  
Nathan Fennessy, City Councilor  
Jim Bouley, Mayor

### **Staff:**

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects  
David Florence, Parking Division Supervisor  
Jeff Hoadley, Deputy Director - General Services Department  
Mark Hebert, Deputy Chief - Fire Department

The meeting, which was held at the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, was called to order at 7:00PM.

Councilor Champlin welcomed the public and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. He noted that this was the initial neighborhood forum for Zone 1 of the Narrow Streets Study Area. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to present preliminary recommendations for certain streets of concern within Zone 1, as well as to receive public input related thereto. The geographic limits of Zone 1 of the Study Area, also known as the Wall Street Neighborhood, is bounded by the following streets: Pleasant Street, South Street, West Street, and South State Street.

The forum was attended by approximately 25 members of the public.

Matt Walsh exhibited a PowerPoint presentation which discussed several narrow streets within Zone 1. The presentation provided a history of the Narrow Streets Study, an explanation of how narrow streets are defined with associated graphics, as well as an overview of narrow streets of concern within the neighborhood and preliminary recommendations associated therewith.

Streets specifically discussed in the presentation included:

- Beaver Street
- Chesley Street
- Concord Street
- Downing Street
- Hutchinson Avenue
- Lincoln Street
- Marshall Street

- Monroe Street
- Oak Street
- Perley Street
- Pierce Street
- Redwood Avenue
- Spruce Street
- Thompson Street
- Thorndike Street

Following the presentation, members of the public asked questions and offered comments. Comments and questions were as follows:

1. Some members of the public expressed concern that proposed parking changes on these streets may shift parking activities to other streets in the neighborhood.
2. Public safety is a critical issue. It was noted that no parking setbacks near intersections needs to be uniformly implemented in the neighborhood in accordance with existing City ordinances to ensure that emergency vehicles, such as the Fire Department's ladder truck, can respond to emergencies.
3. Removal of parking may increase speeding on some streets. It was suggested that four-way stops be created at intersections on some streets to reducing speeding.
4. Many members of the public requested that pavement markings be installed to reducing illegal parking encroachments near driveways and intersections.
5. Residents requested more robust parking enforcement in the neighborhood to address illegal parking issues, especially during evenings and weekends.
6. Several members of the public opined that apartments in the neighborhood have inadequate on-site parking. The City should require 2 parking spaces per unit. Several members of the public also expressed frustration that the Zoning Board approves apartment projects without adequate on-site parking.
7. A discussion about resident permits ensued. Some residents asked for the City to create a program. A discussion of various permit models and pricing ensued. A downtown employee noted that he pays \$1,500 a year for parking and suggested that pricing for resident permits be similar for permits in the City's parking garages. Discussion of resident permits for downtown residents (such as those living on Main Street) versus those in surrounding neighborhoods also ensued.
8. Monroe Street is congested with all day parkers avoiding metered parking.
9. Several residents expressed frustration that employees of downtown businesses and institutions park in the neighborhood all day. Time limits on some streets are not adequately being enforced.
10. Snow bans should be extended to allow for improved snow removal. Increased enforcement was also recommended during snow bans to remove vehicles from streets.

11. The owner of 62 Centre Street dislikes meters and requested that they be removed.

12. Members of the public requested that South Spring Street and Morton Street be included in the Narrow Streets Study.

Councilor Champlin thanked the audience for attending the forum and explained next steps in the study process.

The forum the adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew R. Walsh  
Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services and Special Projects