

# City of Northampton, MA

## Transportation and Parking Commission

April 19, 2016

MEETING MINUTES  
Submitted by: Terry A. Yusko

1. Councilor Ryan O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and announced the audio/video recording of the meeting.

2. Members present and absent/introductions:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Councilor Ryan O'Donnell, Chair	X	
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Vice Chair	X	
Dave Veleta, DPW Senior Civil Engineer	X	
John D. Cartledge, Captain	X	
Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability	X	
David Pomerantz, Director of Central Services	X	
Ann Brooks, Planning Board	X	
Christa Grenat, Citizen	Absent	
Gary Hartwell, Citizen	X	
Rich Cooper, Citizen	X	
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement	X	
Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer	X	
Terry Yusko, DPW Clerk	X	

3. Public comment:

- Rick Rubin from Hampden MA and also Smith College Dining Services Manager asks to have a no "Parking Sign" be removed from 30 Belmont Avenue and replace it with one that allows 15 minute parking. Councilor Ryan O'Donnell will follow up with Mr. Rubin.
- Michelle Squires of 38 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, MA would like to remind everyone that the tractor trailer trucks have not gone away on Lincoln Avenue. Also, she has witnessed cars not stopping at the light on Damon Road and Industrial Park.

4. Reports
  - a. Approval of minutes for March 15, 2016 – moved to next meeting
  - b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee update - NONE
  - c. Updates from DPW, Planning and other departments

Maggie Chan stated the following updates for the DPW:

1. Paving Contract 2016
  - a. DPW is planning on repaving Park St and sections of Locust St, Park Hill Rd, Burts Pit Rd, and Bridge St for this year's paving project
  - a. Bid opening will be in May
1. Crack Sealing Contract 2016
  - a. Crack sealing various streets in the city
  - b. Contract awarded to Crack-Sealing, Inc
2. Traffic Calming
  - a. TCA26 Hatfield St, TC28 Main Street (Leeds), TC29 Cardinal Way, TC30 Federal St -- will start collecting traffic data soon
3. City-wide Sidewalk Inventory
  - a. A request for proposals has been drafted. We are looking for a consultant that will create an inventory and evaluate the condition of existing sidewalks and handicap ramps. They will locate all of the missing sidewalks and create a priority list of sidewalk reconstruction/construction
5. Announcements and Presentations - NONE
6. Requests, Recommendations & Appointments - NONE

7. Recommendations & Appointments

- a. Nomination/appointment of Todd Ford (78 Fern St, Florence) to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee (by Director Feiden).

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To appoint Todd Ford to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee	Wayne Feiden	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

8. Resolutions, Orders & Ordinances

- a. An Ordinance Relative to Parking near the Police Station on Center Street  
 For the purpose of removing the current spot adjacent the Police Station driveway, currently a 15 minute space, and making the next space over a 15 minute space.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To accept the ordinance to remove the current parking spot	Ann Brooks	Rich Cooper	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- b. An ordinance to amend 312-113© “Schedule XII: Stop and Yield Intersections” to add a yield sign at Venturers Field Road at the intersection of Henry Street and Montview Ave.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To accept to add a “Yield” sign to the ordinance	Gary Hartwell	David Pomerantz	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- c. An ordinance to amend 312-104 “Schedule III: Limited-Time Parking” to establish two one-hour parking spaces in Florence on Main Street, on the southerly side, near Chestnut St.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To accept to add(2) one-hour Parking spaces to the ordinance	Gary Hartwell	Ann Brooks	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

9. Discussion Items / Other

- a. Discussion of traffic calming for the top five currently queued traffic calming projects: State St/Trumbull Rd (TCA #4); Baystate Association/Riverside Dr (TCA #1); Florence Road/Ryan Road (TCA #10); Nonotuck Street/Elm Street (TCA #27); Bridge Road (TCA #22)

Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer stated the following:

TCA4 State Street/Trumbull Road (Rank 1 at 57 points)

- A temporary speed hump was installed in from of 125 State Street (Oct 2010)
- September 2011, there was discussion about constructing a 5ft sidewalk, however driveway slopes caused an issue.

TCA1 Bay State Village (Rank 2 at 42 points)

- PVPC did a traffic signal warrant analysis for Elm @ Riverside and Milton in 2001 – conclusion: not warranted.
- Northampton High School is not qualified for school zone signs since it doesn't serve students below grade 9 (MA state law)
- Temporary speed humps were installed, 1) between Norwood Avenue and Hickley Street and 2) between Hickley Street and Federal from September to October 2011.

TCA10 Florence Road/Ryan Road (Rank3 of 39)

- Aiming to place temporary humps in early/mid April 2016 as a trial. Need to decide on location(s) on Florence Road most likely between Scanlon Ave and Cross St

TCA27 Nonotuck Street/Elm Street (Rank 4 of 36 points)

- Aiming to install temporary humps between Maple – Hinckley Street
- Raised crosswalk at Hinckley Street

TCA22 Bridge Road (Rank 5 at 31 points)

- Traffic Calming Applications has been completed

b. Expanding the bus stop in front of the Academy of Music by removing Parking spot(s). Continued to a future meeting

c. Moving the bus stop between Masonic St. and State St to the intersection with Masonic St. Continued to a future meeting

g. Follow up discussion of traffic calming on Lincoln Avenue

- Councilor Ryan O'Donnell stated how Lincoln Avenue has its unique challenges with substantially high truck traffic, but has no reported speeding over the speed limit that exists. The commission decided not to vote on the calming application at the last meeting because of the thought it would be ranked too low. One of the thoughts was to explore line painting on Lincoln Avenue. Councilor Ryan O'Donnell asked Maggie Chan, traffic Engineer if she has done any research on line painting.
- Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer stated that installing edge lines doesn't decrease speed but does increase safety, so people do not swerve off the road, it raises their awareness.
- Ann Brooks asks if the objection is to keep the trucks off the road, the answer by residents is yes. Ms. Brooks asked if there is any way to change the speed limit, Councilor Ryan O'Donnell responded with the State has to change the speed. The question is how to deal with truck traffic and will it affect the other streets if truck usage was somehow stopped from Lincoln Avenue.
- Mr. Squires of 38 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton MA has been fighting this battle for 7 years.
- Michele Squires of 38 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton MA speaks about the speed limit on Lincoln Avenue and how it's higher on her shorter street than it is on other streets that are longer with lower speed limits. Also would like to see the trucks being issued tickets for using the street.
- Captain Cartledge suggests putting in a temporary speed hump, with the thought it would detour the trucks from using Lincoln Avenue.
- Gina Choi of 32 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton MA, mentions private fundraising on the street to take some actions on their own without being penalized. Would like to see the speed limit lowered for Lincoln Avenue.
- Dave Veleta, DPW, stated that a speed hump would be used for a truck diverter and not for speed. Concerned about pushing off the vehicles to the other streets.

Councilor Ryan O'Donnell would like to have the options mentioned studied a little more before making a decision on the Traffic Calming Application on Lincoln Avenue.

d. Question of the addition of a stop sign on Maple Street at the intersection of Maple Street and Nonotuck Street and review of DPW analysis.

- DPW recommends a "Yield" sign be installed and not a "Stop" sign.
- Dave Veleta points out there are certain criteria's that need to be met for a "Stop" sign.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To recommend installing a "Yield" sign at this location.	Gary Hartwell	David Pomerantz	Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

e. Question of the addition of a stop sign on Henry Street at the intersection of Henry Street and Venture's Field Road / Montview Avenue and review of DPW analysis.

- DPW doesn't warrant any signage at this location.

f. South Street bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Possible referral of issue for study to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee.

- Ann Brooks suggests moving this question to Bicycle and Pedestrian sub-committee

10. New Business

Reserved only for matters that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

However, when of a non-time-sensitive nature, unanticipated matters should be discussed at a future meeting.

11. Adjourn

New Business and Adjourn

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn	Ann Brooks	Gary Hartwell	Yes 10, No 0