

# City of Northampton, MA

## Transportation and Parking Commission

May 17, 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              |   |
| David Veleta, acting City Engineer                    | X              |   |
| Jody Kasper, Chief of Police                          | X              |   |
| Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability | Absent         |   |
| David Pomerantz, Director of Central Services         | X              |   |
| Ann Brooks, Planning Board                            | X              | 4:03  |
| Christa Grenat, Citizen                               | X              |   |
| Gary Hartwell, Citizen                                | Absent         |   |
| Rich Cooper, Citizen                                  | Absent         |   |
| Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen                            | X              | 4:04  |
| <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:

- Dawn Lynch from 37 O'Connor Avenue, Holyoke MA, also the Operations Manager for Mercedes Cab which owns Go-Green and Funky Cab located at 376 Easthampton Rd. – Northampton, MA. Ms. Lynch would like to speak about the City regulations which do not allow Livery vehicles. Ms. Lynch also stated that the rules and regulations are out of date, and that there isn't any enforcement. Councilor Ryan O'Donnell will put this item on the agenda for a future meeting.

9. Discussion Items / Other

- a. The Transportation and Parking Commission 2016 schedule of meetings.
  - There will be no July meeting, unless something of urgency comes up.
  
- j. Discussion of possible addition of a 15 minute space on Market St. near Bridge St/Main St.
  - Erica, Director of “Click Work Space” located at 9 ½ Market Street, Northampton, MA would like to see 15 minute parking spaces added to the street. This would help with deliveries being made to the business’s along this street.
  
  - City Councilor Ryan O’Donnell suggested having a formal proposal written, which he would assist with and bring it back to a future meeting,
  
- b. Follow up on: Installing traffic counter at Hampton Ave for traffic and pedestrian counts for Hampton Court’s mid-block crosswalk request.
  - Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra asked when the traffic and pedestrian counts would happen.
  - Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer stated there is a back log of studies needing to be done and couldn’t give a definite answer to when this study would happen.
  - David Veleta, acting City Engineer asked the Commission to have some patience with the DPW, that the department has been experiencing the loss of a DPW Director and the City Engineer which has put a lot of strain on the department.
  
- c. Follow up on: Painting over parking spot on South St. at Columbus that was removed by ordinance on 11/05/15.
  - Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra has been receiving multiple calls about this issue.
  - David Veleta stated that the DPW will follow up with Richard Parasiliti, Highway Superintendent regarding this issue.

4. Reports

- a. Approval of minutes for March 15, 2016 and April 19, 2016

| Motion:   | Motion by:      | Second:                       | Vote:                     |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| To vote on both sets of minutes as a group                                      | David Pomerantz | Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra |                           |
| To approve the minutes for March 15, 2016 as amended and April 19, 2016 minutes |                 |                               | Yes,8 No, 0<br>Abstain, 0 |

b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee update

- There will be a public meeting for the Walk/Bike Northampton Forum at 6:30pm Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at First Churches Sanctuary, 129 Main Street.

c. Updates from DPW, Planning and other departments

Maggie Chan stated the following updates for the DPW:

- **Paving Contract 2016**

- Park Hill Rd, Burts Pit Rd, Park St, Locust St, and Bridge St
- Bid opening on June 1

- **Traffic Control Devices Contract 2016**

- Majority of the buttons have been installed and programmed

- **Traffic Calming**

- TCA26 Hatfield St, TC28 Main Street (Leeds), TC29 Cardinal Way, TC30 Federal St -- will start collecting traffic data soon
- Florence Road temporary speed hump to be installed this Thursday, signs have already been installed, traffic counters have been placed as well

- **Hampton Ave**

- Will collect traffic counts and pedestrian counts soon

9. Discussion Items/ Other

d. Follow up on: Installation of “Dead End” or “No Outlet” sign at entrance to Ice Pond Drive.

- Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra stated the sign still has yet to be installed

e. Discussion of a possible change in parking rules such as a 15 minute or temporary delivery area at 30 Belmont Avenue

- David Pomerantz asked for pictures of location for next meeting.

f. Discussion of the possible addition of a parking spot in front of First Churches office entrance.

- Claire O'Brien is representing First Churches in reference to the addition of a parking space on the Center Street side of the Church. The parking space has been there for many years and is asking for restoration of such space (located at the no parking sign). This would be helpful for deliveries to the church. Also, the church asked if the crosswalk that presently exists at 21 Center Street could be reinstated and painted for safety reasons.
- David Veleta asked for some type of proposal including pictures.
- Councilor Ryan O'Donnell will contact First Churches to come back to a future meeting.

g. Discussion of traffic calming for Riverside Dr. relative to the Traffic Calming Application (TCA#1) for Baystate Association/Riverside Drive.

- Maggie Chan stated that there was temporary speed humps installed in the past that did show a decrease in speed.
- David Veleta is questioning the location of the speed humps.
- Councilor Ryan O'Donnell will follow up with the residents as far as the placement issues of the speed humps.

h. Expanding the bus stop in front of the Academy of Music by removing parking spot(s); moving the bus stop between Masonic St. and State St to the intersection with Masonic St

- No representatives present from PVTA

i. Discussion of expanding parking in downtown Florence

- There are times it can be busy in Florence, but parking doesn't seem to be an overwhelming issue. Patient parking might be an issue for the medical buildings.

k. Discussion of Wilson Avenue parking issues, including the sides of the street where parking is allowed.

- Councilor Ryan O'Donnell asked to move this item to a future meeting.

10. New Business:

- NONE

11. Adjourn – 4:49pm

| Motion  | Motion by:                        | Second:           | Vote:       |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Adjourn | Councilor Gina-<br>Louise Sciarra | Jami Albro-Fisher | Yes 8, No 0 |