

City of Northampton, MA

Transportation and Parking Commission

June 21, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Terry A. Yusko

1. Councilor Ryan O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 4:02pm and announced the audio/video recording of the meeting.

2. Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Councilor Ryan O'Donnell, Chair	X	
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Vice Chair	X	
Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director	X	
Jody Kasper, Chief of Police	X	
Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability	X	
David Pomerantz, Director of Central Services	Absent	
Ann Brooks, Planning Board	Absent	
Christa Grenat, Citizen	X	
Gary Hartwell, Citizen	Absent	
Rich Cooper, Citizen	Absent	
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	
Staff	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement	X	
Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer	X	
Terry Yusko, DPW Clerk	X	

3. Public comment:

- Joe Squires of 38 Lincoln Avenue – Northampton, MA, truck traffic on Lincoln Avenue is a disaster waiting to happen. Trucks travel the street all hours of the night, causing house to shake, sleepiness nights. Resident's quality of life has been ruined by the expansion of the Coca Cola plant.
- Michelle Squires of 38 Lincoln Avenue – Northampton, MA feels the City and Coca Cola representatives need to come up with some resolution to solve the use of Lincoln Avenue by delivery trucks going to Coca Cola. Signs do not work, GPS doesn't work, and something needs to be done about it.

- Lydia Rackenberg of 46 Grant Avenue – Northampton, MA feels the light on Damon Road has made the truck traffic increase on Grant & Lincoln Avenue. Also would like to see the enforcement increased.

4. Reports

a. Approval of minutes for previous meeting

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Jody Kasper, Chief	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 0

b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee update

- Wayne Feiden stated the Bicycle and Pedestrian subcommittee will be moving into phase two and blocking off Cracker Barrel Lane for the next 5 months.

c. Update from the DPW and other departments

Maggie Chan stated the following updates for the DPW:

- **Paving Contract 2016**

- a. Bid opening was on June 1, 2016 low bidder was Palmer Paving Corporation
- b. Work will start in the next month or two. Updates will be posted on the DPW blog

- **Crack Sealing 2016**

- a. Crack-sealing, Inc was in town the past couple of weeks sealing various streets

- **Traffic Calming**

- a. Florence Road temporary speed hump has been installed. Traffic counters were out for one week before and one week after the installation. The data is being processed

- **Hampton Ave**

- a. Traffic counter was installed at UP4 and pedestrian counts were conducted -- data is being processed

- **Sidewalk Inventory RFP**

- a. The request for proposals has been sent to 4 firms
- b. We are requesting the work to be completed by November

8. Discussion Items / Other

- b. Possible addition of a 15 minute space on Market St near Bridge St / Main St.
 - Item will be moved to a future meeting, no representatives present.

- c. Crosswalk and general traffic issues near 126 West Street (Karla Youngblood, Facilities Management – Smith College)
 - Karla Youngblood is representing herself not Smith College, and would like to have a study done on the crosswalk located near 126 West Street. Wayne Feiden suggested reviewing the previous study that was done several years ago by Smith College. Ms. Youngblood offered to try and track the study down and pass it along to Wayne Feiden and Councilor Ryan O'Donnell. This item will be brought back to a future meeting.

- d. Sidewalk on Barrett Street, and issues related to bus service (Douglas Ross)
 - No representation present, move to future meeting

- e. Traffic issues near the crosswalk on Pine Street at Corticelli St (Elizabeth Vioduca)
 - Elizabeth Vioduca is the owner of River Valley Rest Home located at 159 Pine Street, Northampton, MA and is concerned about the crosswalk located at Pine Street & Corticelli Street. Ms. Vioduca references a recent pedestrian accident at this location, and would like the City to install a speed hump to prevent future accidents.
 - Chief Jody Kasper says there have been 4 reported accidents at the crosswalk with 2 of them being fatalities. The Police Department is also concerned about this issue.
 - Councilor Ryan O'Donnell suggested to have the Police Department put a paddle in the crosswalk, and asked the DPW to do an analysis to move the crosswalk.

- f. Issues and city regulations relative to taxis, livery vehicles, ridesharing (such as Uber), etc. (Dawn Lynch, Operations Manager, Mercedes Cab)
 - 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. She would also like to see cab stands installed in the City. Chief Kasper also agrees that the regulations are out of whack and need to be addressed.

- a. Expanding the bus stop in front of the Academy of Music on the south side of Main Street by removing parking spot(s) on Main Street; moving the bus stop currently on the north side of Main Street between Masonic Street and State Street to the intersection of Main Street and Masonic Street, but still between Masonic Street and State Street (Josh Rickman and representatives of the PVRTA)
- Josh Rickman from the PVRTA explains the safety concerns with the current bus stop currently on the north side of Main Street. PVRTA is requesting the relocation of the bus stop on the north side to a position about 100 feet to the east to be adjacent to the intersection of Main and Masonic Streets. This would be the original stop location prior to 2011. With doing this it would eliminate 2 parking spaces westbound between Masonic Street and New South Street.
 - Josh Rickman is also requesting the removal of a single “orphan” parking space located immediately west of the crosswalk at Pulaski Park to lengthen the curb distance of the bus stop.
 - Nanci Forrestall brings it to the attention of the Commission that by removing the single “orphan” parking spot moving the buses closer to the crosswalk would be very dangerous for someone stepping out into the crosswalk.

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To eliminate (2) parking spaces and move the bus stop on the north side of Main Street 100 ft east to the intersection of Main and Masonic Streets for safety reasons	Wayne Feiden	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes 7, No 0

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To eliminate the parking spot located west of the crosswalk at Pulaski Park	Wayne Feiden	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Wayne Feiden – Yes Jami Albro-Fisher – Yes Councilor Ryan O’Donnell – No Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra – No Jody Kasper, Chief – No Christa Grenat – No Donna LaScaleia – No (2) Yes – (5) No

g. Possible recommendation relative to city policy regarding gender-neutral road work sign

- Donna LaScaleia stated the DPW will be doing an inventory of all signs, retired/versus in use.

9. New Business

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

- NONE

10. Adjourn – 5:30pm

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Councilor Ryan O'Donnell	Yes 7, No 0