

City of Northampton, MA

Transportation and Parking Commission

August 16, 2016

MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Debora Laizer

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:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Councilor Ryan O'Donnell, Chair	X	
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Vice Chair	X	
Donna LaScalia, DPW Director	X	
Jody Kasper, Chief of Police	Absent	
Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability	X	
David Pomerantz, Director of Central Services	X	
Ann Brooks, Planning Board	X	
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
Bob Howard, Lieutenant NPD	X	
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement	Absent	
Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer	X	
Deb Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	

3. Public comment

- Dr. James Lowenthal, 181 Crescent Street, Northampton seeks the commissions support for implementing a shield to all new LED street lights to reduce the glare as suggested in the CSAPH Report 2-A-16 by the American Medical Association.
- Oldene Lococo, Prospect Street, Northampton expressed concern about the 35 MPH speed limit on Prospect Street. She would like to see the speed limit lowered due to lack of visibility.

4. Annual Election of Officers Per Sec 1.09 of Administrative Code

Annual Election of Officers

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Chair Nominations Opened	David Pomerantz	Ann Brooks	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

Councilor O'Donnell stated that nominations from the floor for the office of Chair were in order at this point

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To nominate Councilor Ryan O'Donnell for Chair	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Ann Brooks	

Councilor O'Donnell asked if there were other nominations for office of Chair. None were offered. Ryan O'Donnell was the only nomination for Chair.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Chair Nominations Closed	Ann Brooks	Wayne Feiden	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

Councilor O'Donnell was elected Chair by voice vote of 8 Yes, 0 No

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Election of Ryan O'Donnell as Chair			Yes 7, No 0 0 Abstentions

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Vice Chair Nominations Opened	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Ann Brooks	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

Councilor O'Donnell stated that nominations from the floor for the office of Vice Chair were in order at this point

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To nominate Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra for Vice Chair	Ann Brooks	David Pomerantz	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

Councilor O'Donnell asked if there were other nominations for office of Vice Chair. None were offered.

Gina-Louise Sciarra was the only nomination for Vice Chair.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Vice Chair Nominations Closed	Ann Brooks	Christa Grenat	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra was elected Vice Chair by voice vote of 8 Yes, 0 No

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Election of Gina-Louise Sciarra for Vice Chair			Yes 7, No 0 0 Abstentions

55. Reports

b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

- The Bike and Pedestrian master plan final draft by Alta Design should be complete in September.
- The temporary parklet for Cracker Barrel Alley should be delivered to the DPW in August.

c. DPW Updates

Paving Contract 2016

- Paving will start Monday, August 22nd on Bridge Street and Locust Street.
- Updates will be posted on the DPW blog.

Traffic Calming

- Hatfield Street counts were completed on 8/3 and the data is being processed.
- Main Street, Leeds counts are being collected, next installation will be for tc29 Cardinal Way and tc30 Federal Street.
- Two speed tables will be installed on Florence Road near Cross Street mid September.
- Traffic calming manual edits has been started.

Sidewalk inventory RFP

- Alta Planning + Design (who is working on the comprehensive bike and ped plan) have been awarded the contract.

Pine Street @ Corticelli Crosswalk

- A new 16 ft crosswalk has been painted and pedestrian signage has been installed.

7. Requests, Recommendations & Appointments

a. Traffic Calming Application for North Farms Road

- Discussion scheduled for September meeting.

9. Discussions Items/Other

a. Hampton Avenue Crosswalk

- Zane Lumelsky Wilnowskiy, 20 Hampton Avenue, Northampton expressed concern for wheelchairs, walkers and stroller crossing at this location, he suggested a Kirkland Avenue option.
- Dominique Demar, 20 Hampton Avenue, Northampton would like a solar flashing panel near the crosswalk to gain the attention of approaching vehicles.
- Tamar Balter suggested installing speed bumps to slow the traffic down.
- Susan Shapiro, 20 Hampton Avenue, Northampton would like to see a crosswalk in the 200ft area.
- Roberta Peto, Hampton Court, Northampton is in favor of having a crosswalk.
- James Lowenthal, 181 Crescent Street, Northampton encourages a speed hump or speed table policy for mid block crossings.
- Data gathered from the traffic study might help to determine where Hampton Avenue is on the list of future road work, which may be required before installing speed humps or raised crosswalks. Speed data collected was 20 to 22mph.

Public comment was reopened.

- Zane Lumelsky Wilnowski asked that the commission to make a policy for future crosswalk requests and to give their approval on needing a crosswalk on Hampton Avenue.

Public comment closed.

- The commission will continue the discussion of recommending a crosswalk on Hampton Avenue until after the data results from the Alta Study.

8. Resolutions, Orders & Ordinances

a. 16.135 An Ordinance Relative to a bus stop on Main Street.

Code of Ordinance Amendment
 Removal of two spaces (10 feet) from a point 75 feet westerly from Masonic Street to a point 65 feet westerly from Masonic Street.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Positive Recommendation of Change to Ordinance 16.135	David Pomerantz	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

b. 16.136 An Ordinance Relative to parking on Old South Street

Parking prohibited at all times on South Street, edits to metered parking and fifteen minute parking on Old South Street, and the addition of a parking space between Brewster Court and Hampton Avenue. See attached.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
Positive Recommendation of Change to Ordinance 16.136	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Ann Brooks	Yes 8, No 0 0 Abstentions

9. Discussion Items/Other

- b. Removed from the agenda
- c. Motorcycle and Compact Car Parking Ordinances
 - Removal of the fifteen minute parking spot next to the Police Station Driveway or can it be changed to motorcycle parking. The DPW will look into those regulations.
- d. Pedestrian and general safety on Burt's Pit Road and related issues.
 - The DPW will replace any missing and damaged signs in the curve area next to Smith Vocational Agricultural fields on Burts Pit Road.
- e. Fifteen minute parking space next to the Police Station
 - The fifteen minute spot next to the Police Station Parking lot has been removed, the spot in front of that is going to be made into a 15 minute parking spot. First Church additional parking space needs further investigating.

10. Continued Items

- a. A fifteen minute parking space on Market Street needs to be measured before an ordinance can be brought forward.
- b. The three men working signs will be replaced with a picture of a person with a shovel.

c. The need to update our taxi ordinance by forming a draft for the commission with intercity departments heads.

d. Wayne Feiden will research an old Smith College Crosswalk Study for area near 126 West Street.

Adjourn

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn	Gina-Louse Sciarra	Ryan O'Donnell	Yes 8, No 0

Meeting closed 5:35pm