

City of Northampton, MA

Transportation and Parking Commission

September 20, 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:

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	X	
Ann Brooks, Planning Board	X	
Christa Grenat, Citizen	X	
Gary Hartwell, Citizen	Absent	
Rich Cooper, Citizen	X	
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:

- Jill Phelps of 533 Audubon Road, Leeds, MA has 2 children at Northampton High School. Ms. Phelps has concerns with the location of the handicap spaces. The spaces that are allotted are too far and downhill from the main entrance. She is asking for support to have the handicap parking at the Northampton High School improved.

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s): June 21, 2016 and August 16, 2016.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To vote on both sets of minutes as a group	Wayne Feiden	David Pomerantz	
To approve the minutes for June 21, 2016 and the August 16, 2016 minutes as amended			Yes,10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

8. Resolutions, Orders & Ordinances

a. 16.164 - An Ordinance To amend Chapter 312-36 of the Code Book (Parking Meter Locations and Regulations)to modify the time limits and fees of Class 1A and Class 1C parking zones, and to add a new class.

b. 16.165 - An Ordinance To amend Chapter 312-109 of the Code Book(Schedule VIII: On-Street Parking Meter Zones)to modify the parking time limits and/or parking zone classes for certain portions of streets including Main Street (downtown), Merrick Lane, Crafts Avenue, and Bridge Street.

c. 16.166 -An Ordinance To amend Chapter 312-110 of the Code Book (Schedule IX: Off-Street Parking Areas) to modify the parking time limit in the Sinconofli Lot (a number of spaces in front of the Maplewood Shops).

- Mayor David Narkewicz talked about the 2015 Parking Management Study and the intermediate and long term changes. It was noted about the difficulty of parking on Main Street and the lack of turnover. The 1st of the changes would be to change the allotted time of parking on Main Street from 1 hour to 2 hour parking, with adjusting the pricing on Main Street to differentiate from other on street parking. Also, adjusting the Maplewood Shops parking as well as most of the parking from 1 hour parking to 2 hour parking.
- Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra asked if there would be a need for more 15 minute parking spaces.
- Christa Grenat asked if the reason for the change is to allow people more time to shop and eat.
- Rich Cooper stated that raising the rates is not to generate income but to modify the behavior.

- Councilor Ryan O'Donnell also agreed with Mr. Cooper, that it's not about revenue but about influencing behavior.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To vote on all 3 ordinances as a group To make a positive recommendation on all three ordinances	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra,	Wayne Feiden	Yes,10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

7. Requests, Recommendations & Appointments

- a. Traffic Calming Application for North Farms Road (Received March 21, 2016).
- Bob Zimmerman of 549 North Farms Road-Florence, MA has (2) concerns, (1) traffic volume, and (2) speed. The excessive use of the road, especially by large trucks has made the road deplorable.
 - Yvonne Fitzgerald of 602 North Farms Road – Florence, MA speaks about the heavy use of the road by trucks, as well as the overgrown vegetation along the road and the excessive speed by drivers.
 - Amy Levine of 373 North Farms Road – Florence, MA, is also concerned about the speed, and the aggressive driving on the road, she has very young children and it worry's her.
 - Ms. Zimmerman of 549 North Farms Road-Florence, MA would like to emphasize on the amount of trucks that use the road as a short cut. The road is a rural road we moved there because of it.
 - Brian Levine of 373 North Farms Road – Florence, MA stated the risk of riding bikes on the road, so he drives his kids and bikes 5 minutes down the road to use bike path.
 - Andrew Hannon of 372 North Farms Rd – Florence, MA rides his bike on North Farms Rd all the time and also agrees the speed of the vehicles is an issue.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To request the DPW initiate a traffic study and gather data as the first step in the traffic calming process.	Wayne Feiden	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes,10 No, 0 Abstain, 0

9. Other Items

b. Issues related to traffic on Park Hill Rd.(Councilor LaBarge)

- Councilor LaBarge has concerns with signage on Park Hill Road. Director Donna LaScaleia joined Councilor LaBarge for a site visit. Concerned about the speed, would like to have hidden driveway signs installed and would like to see speed humps installed.

c. Issues related to traffic at the intersection of Westhampton Rd and Glendale Rd.(Councilor LaBarge)

- Councilor LaBarge would like to see a traffic calming study done of Westhampton Road. Concerned with the speed and the heavy use of the road.

d. Stop signs, other signage and issues of traffic and traffic calming at the intersection of Vernon St, Washington Pl and Federal St.(Councilor Bidwell)

- Councilor Bidwell would like to see a sign on Federal Street stating” approaching intersection” and a possible “stop sign” at Washington Place. Councilor Bidwell would like to have the DPW do an analysis to see if signs are warranted.
- Director Donna LaScaleia agreed to have the DPW look into providing more information regarding signage at Vernon St, Washington Place and Federal Street.

5. Reports from Departments and Subcommittees

- Wayne Feiden spoke about the fundraising campaign happening for Cracker Barrel Alley.
- DPW Updates – Maggie Chan

Paving Contract 2016

- Park Hill Rd, Burts Pit Rd, Park St, Locust St, and Bridge St
- Burts Pit Road will be paved September 21, 2016
- Markings Inc will be line painting the paved streets.

Crack Sealing

- Crack sealing-Inc is starting up again September 21, 2016 - various streets throughout the city

Traffic Calming

- Federal St – need to collect data.

- Florence Rd -- two speed tables will be installed near Cross street at the end of the month.
- Nonotuck St - 2 temporary speed humps have been placed between Landy Ave and New Street.

Sidewalk Inventory

- Alta Planning + Design have been awarded the contract.
- Alta has hired Innovative Data to collect data on various streets.

Line Painting

- Markings Inc. will be line painting the evening of September 20, 2016 on various roads of the city.

6. Announcements & Presentations – NONE

7. Requests, Recommendations & Appointments

b. Request that a number of 15 - minute parking spaces be established in the vicinity of a new business, “The Good Dog Spot” (139 King St).

- Rich of 150 Main Street – Northampton, MA is making a request on behalf of the business owner to have (2) 15-minute parking spaces in front of the building located at 139 King Street to accommodate clients dropping their dogs off.
- Councilor Ryan O’Donnell stated that an ordinance would be needed to change the parking spaces to 15-minute parking.
- Wayne Feiden asked Maggie Chan if someone from the DPW could draft an ordinance for next meeting.

9. Other Items

a. Discussion of LED street lighting. (Mr. Albro-Fisher)

- Mr. Albro-Fisher is concerned about the LED lights that will be installed and the affect from the glare with vehicles. Mr. Fisher would like to know if there is some type of shield that can be installed that could assist with the glare issue.
- Mayor David Narkewicz spoke about the initiative that was put forward by his administration and something that the City Council has funded the capital investment for. The issue of the glare is something that the city has looked at, and they will be responsive when there is a complaint about a particular light.

10. Continued Items – Items will be continued again to a future meeting.

a. Issues, city regulations and ordinances relative to taxis, livery vehicles, ridesharing (such as Uber).

b. Potential 15 minute parking space on Market St near Bridge St / Main St.

11. New Business - NONE

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.

12. Adjourn

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn	Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Chief Jody Kasper	Yes 10 , No 0