



*Parking Committee of the
Transportation and Parking Commission*

City of Northampton
www.northamptonma.gov/tpc

MEETING AGENDA & MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2013

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Room 10, City Hall, 210 Main Street, Northampton

MEMBERS

Holly Mott - Chair
Citizen

Wayne Feiden
Director of Planning and
Sustainability

Sam³ Welson
Citizen

Marc Warner
Citizen

Susan Timberlake
Citizen

Members present/absent:

Present: Wayne Feiden, Holly Mott, Sam Welson, Marc Warner, Susan Timberlake

Meeting Called to Order by Holly Mott at 6:00 PM CTO

Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting

Public Comment

Nancy Cowan, owner of Happy Valley, Main Street

Says one hour time limit on Main Street a problem; notes that salons routinely feed the meter for their patrons with their hair in foil

Says no shopkeepers feel the meter enforcement hours should be extended; this measure, she believes, would make downtown less attractive for shoppers.

She notes that downtown businesses generally open at 10 AM and thus does not oppose the proposal to start meter enforcement later than the current 8 AM start time.

She adds that merchants do not park in CBD--too expensive.

4. Approval of Minutes of September 4, 2013

• Sue Timberlake amended the minutes to correct the spelling of Dan Yacuzzo from the Business Improvement District.

• Motion passes to approve the minutes with changes

• Other comments about the minutes in general

- Wayne Feiden suggests that the minutes up to now for the committee have been more detailed than needed

- Holly Mott said she would check with Mary Midura to see if she would post the minutes on the city web site. Wayne said that if they are not posted, he could arrange to do it.

5. Discussion about the public comment period

• After a brief discussion about time limits, members agreed that they would leave it up to the chair to enforce brevity, relevance to the night's agenda, and opportunity for follow-up discussion.

6. Marc Warner memo on consulting options

• Wayne Feiden did meet with the mayor and discussed consulting options; said mayor also recognized the value of general consultant guidance similar to that used in last year's Charter Drafting Committee. Wayne says the mayor is checking with David Pomerantz about experiences with parking consultants elsewhere. Key question, says Wayne, is whether to do all components at once or to just make piecemeal changes.

- Holly Mott suggests that we determine the "low hanging fruit" that we can do without consultant help. Wayne says that the initial data collection outline that Marc put together is good, and that Alex, a planning department intern, is doing the first steps of this.

7. Other items

- Susan Timberlake suggested we prepare a list of stakeholders
- Marc Warner said he would speak to Brian Baceski in the city parking department about whether the city's current meters and pay machines can handle the proposed policy changes.
- Sam Welson will also check meter technology on internet and will look for off-street parking such as the lot by Union Station and the Yes Computer store that could have potential for a public/private partnership.
- Holly Mott said she would check with Amherst about their experiences with evening parking enforcement and resident-parking permits.
- Issue raised about extensive parking on Graves, Hawley, and other largely residential roads near downtown.
 - Is there capacity in garage or elsewhere for motorists pushed out of these streets because of resident parking permits? Sam Welson says garage is currently oversubscribed.
- Susan Timberlake says she likes the Parking Ambassador program and the graduated fines for parking violations discussed in the Boulder, CO report.
- Comment that the gate at the parking garage is routinely broken.
- Suggestion that we put "draft" and the date on all material sent among the members.

8. Adjournment

- Holly Mott made a motion to adjourn. Susan seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.