

Parking Committee of the Transportation and Parking Commission
City of Northampton
www.northamptonma.gov/tpc

MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 17, 2014
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Room 10, City Hall, 210 Main Street, Northampton

Call to order 5:09PM

Committee members present:

- Sue Timberlake
- Holly Mott
- Adam Novitt
- Wayne Feiden

Absent:

- Marc Warner

Minutes for March 20 approved as written by Susan

Seconded by Wayne

Discussion: Marc did great job minutes from the last meeting. Huzzah.

Public Comment

Dan Ladd from the Smith end of Prospect St. near Summer St. of the Trumbell wants to talk about parking there. 57 trumbell apartments has no parking other than on the street. It presents an ongoing problem for him and other residents who can't unload groceries kids etc. They wind up with tickets for dropping off groceries and other small errands. They would like to have resident parking painted and/or parking spaces. Painted spaces would prevent wasted use. The City needs to clarify relationship between police and parking departments. Nobody seems to be in charge. There was a car parked in front of building for 2 weeks but city ordinance is 72 hours. The 72 hour rule not enforced. Winter parking bans can be a problem.

Holly: Situation is not unique to just his street, we are exploring resident parking. We should follow up with parking, central services, police etc. We are a committee, do not make policy. We advise.

Sue: Would 15 minutes load/unload help?

Dan: We almost never find parking, we wind up parking 2 blocks away. Harrison etc. Area

residents are high tax payers but have no parking. Smith students take the spaces.

Holly: there is some restricted parking there. Opposite side parking prevents warehousing of cars. Close to the quad.

Dan: painted parking spaces would help. difficulty with kids, laundry etc.

Holly: Suggests Dan draft a letter and get signatures, send to Smith.

All: thanks for coming

Dan: Cherio

Debin Bruce: on her way back from dentist so stopped in. Round Hill List serve could engage Smith.

Discussion of Parking and Trans Commission public comment period. Discussion of what are the powers of the Parking Committee. What relief can be brought for citizens coming to meetings? Discussion of history of Kensington residents only parking. Discussion of uniformity across similar areas. e.g Graves, Summer, Prospect, Kensington, areas where residents compete with non residents for parking.

Holly: what is the entry point, what can we do? Consider for policy formation.

Adam: we should use principals Whole area, reconginzez user groups, control via price.

What to do about round hill build out.

Debin: Hooray for Parking Committee! Loves the idea of people actually considering a plan.

Wayne: We don't have enough parking, that's the fact.

Holly: Often, there is no parking in the long term lots.

Wayne: Some groups of people are flexible with their parking demands. So, we can make better use but at peak there will still be no problems.

Holly: People forget the garage.

Debin: Recently got burrito at Bueno y Sano parked at garage. Garage is great!

Adam: Singage would help. Adam will post parking principals on Google docs.

Holly: Discussion of hybrid meter/parking pass system. How to finance?

Wayne: We can borrow against things that will pay, such as smarter meters. Possible to borrow against future revenue.

Discussion of signage, lots of signs downtown. Intelligent meters.

Sue: How should signs work?

Debin: What about a parking website?

Wayne: Could have an app that tells how many parking spaces could also predict when parking would become available.

Adam and Holly: That sounds useful.

Discussion: How to reach people and educate them about parking options. How can we bring back people that don't come downtown anymore due to tight parking.

Adam: Post parking principals ideas to Google docs, edit and return with parking reform package.

Sue: what is our charge? What is it that this committee actually does.

Review of TPC committee reaction to cameras. Generally positive. Public Comment at TPC about parking in residential area. Should that person come to PC? We're not empowered to create a specific solution.

Time Lapse:

Discussion of camera placement and recording. Probable 2 weeks.

Holly: After Main Street is reviewed go to roundhouse lot.

Discussion of how to deploy cameras. Possible collaboration with Hamp housing for placement of cameras.

Discussion of how long vehicles stay in place, will this reveal meter feeding.

Next steps:

Review footage, parking principals

New Business:

Discussion of motorcycle parking. Discussion of TPC meeting.

Adjourn 635