



**MINUTES: Parking Committee
of the Transportation and Parking Commission**

City of Northampton
www.northamptonma.gov/tpc

September 10, 2014, 7:00 PM Where: City Council Chambers
210 Main Street, Northampton, MA

MEMBERS

Holly Mott - Chair
Citizen

Wayne Feiden
Director of
Planning and
Sustainability

Adam Novitt
Citizen

Susan Timberlake
Citizen

Marc Warner
Citizen

1. **Members present/absent:** Present: Holly Mott, chair; Adam Novitt; Susan Timberlake; Absent: Wayne Feiden. Members of the public attending:
 2. **Meeting Called to Order** at 7:15 pm. Committee had trouble getting access to the room.
3. **Announcement of Audio/Video Recording of Meeting.** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes** of July 10, 2014. Sue made a motion to approve, Adam seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5. **Public Comment:** Dan Ladd of 57 Prospect Street re-introduced the issues of Prospect Street and Smith students parking in his neighborhood such that he got a ticket unloading his groceries to his house. He came into the Parking Committee before (in the spring) and has also gone to TPC, talked to the DPW, the Northampton police etc. After 72 hours, he contacts the police and they restart the 72 hours so that they can witness it. It is very frustrating. Holly Mott explained that we have many areas in the City with similar problems, that the Parking Committee is still working on its process and that we only recommend to the TPC, then there is a process after that. Everyone is aware that it is frustrating. Dan Ladd asked for Resident only parking like Harrison Avenue. Harrison Ave is/was the only street in the City that has been granted resident only parking; this fact continues to fester with every other resident of streets that have the same problem, but that did not get the special dispensation that Harrison got. The Committee took the information under advisement. A discussion ensued about the Parking Committee's jurisdiction, resident only parking and whether Smith has taken an active role in warning the students about storing their cars in residential neighborhoods. Adam Novitt brought up Myrtle Street and the 4 way stop at Finn Street.
6. **Update on Parking Principles.** In June, Wayne Feiden presented the Parking Principles to the TPC. (He had made the last redraft.) The TPC took them under review and suggested something about single visit trips. Holly redrafted the section and will forward the Parking Principles to Ryan O'Donnell, the chair of the TPC. The discussion was wide ranging. There was an additional comment about the Parking Principles, that perhaps they should have included a mention of historical preservation issues by James Lowenthal at the TPC. The TPC took that information under advisement. It was noted that the Parking Principles, as drafted, make no mention of: a) safety, or b) that the City should be following/ enforcing the applicable design standards (MUTCD per Mark). REFERENCE: [a. Federal



23CFR Part 665 MUTCD (*Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*), b. the current Massachusetts Amendments to MUTCD and c. the Mass DOT Policy and Design Guidelines for traffic engineering].

7. **Update on membership.** Holly is planning to sit down with Suzanne Beck of the Northampton Chamber of Commerce to see if she can help us find two business members. There were questions about the RFP "Comprehensive Parking Management Study" when it went out, who bid and who was reviewing it. Holly mentioned that she had been asked to sit on the Committee that is opening the bids. There wasn't any more information available about it, yet.
8. **Ordinance 312-99 Violations and penalties** – review fine increase. The membership discussed the fine (too high, too low) and approach. Sue made a motion to approve of the new fine as proposed at \$150, Adam seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The vote to support the change will be forwarded to the TPC.
9. **Prospect Street Parking Request and general review of the parking request policy.** Holly outlined the process that Ryan O'Donnell is developing to review traffic and parking problems. Maureen Carney and Ryan O'Donnell received a complaint about 281 Prospect Street (near a crossing and parked cars from the YMCA), and near Adaire Place. There are traffic accidents and near misses because visibility is blocked. A discussion ensued about the geometry of intersections and how issues are "processed". At an earlier meeting it was suggested that we log and categorize complaints. The result is that we will know that we have say "18" similar problems and where they are. Sue raised the question: can we suggest that every traffic complaint be looked at by the Engineer to make sure the physical geometry complies with MUTCD, and that it is marked clearly, or is that under someone else's jurisdiction?
10. **Check in on Time Lapse Study:** Adam will be setting up the Camera again. It was suggested that we still need Sunday night through to Tuesday evening data looking from City Hall toward Thornes. That was a gap in our last data collection.
11. **Ongoing meeting time:** A discussion of everyone's calendar, including the fact that Wayne Feiden plans to step off our committee soon. The second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm was chosen. We will try for City Council Chambers, if they are available.
12. **NEW BUSINESS** – Holly Mott got a email note from Paypoint.com. It is a company that allows you to pay your meter by phone. Holly will forward the information to David Pomerantz. Next meeting we will probably discuss: a) Parking Request Policy/process, b) Parking Generation Rates for different types of businesses and their application in areas of Northampton c) Revised Parking Principles.
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm

The next meeting is ?????? October 8, 2014 7 pm , City Council Chambers? , 210 Main Street.

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