

City of Northampton, MA  
Transportation and Parking Commission

April 23, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Deb Laizer

1. Councilor Jim Nash called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and announced that there would be audio/video recording of this meeting.

2. Members present and absent/introductions:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Councilor Jim Nash, Chair	X	
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Vice Chair	Absent	
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	Absent	
Debin Bruce, Citizen	X	
Gary Hartwell, Citizen	X	
Adam Novitt, Citizen	Absent	
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	
Alan Verson, Planning Board	Absent	
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement	X	
Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer	X	
Deb Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	

3. Brief summary on the Pace Car Program:

- It is simply, go online to sign up, get the sticker and pledge you will go the speed limit. Councilor Nash encourages the public to participate in the Pace Car program.

4. Public comment:

- Alex Jarret of 80 High Street
  - Would like to see a Pace Bike Program;
  - Wanted to express a “Thank You” for addressing the Federal, South Main and Elm Street intersection;
  - Shared parking in Florence, held back due to availability, should consider the SMART Code ratio;
  - Would like to see an updated plowing initiative. Alex combined with teachers and some bike pedestrians did a study and feels that we are denying safe transportation to seniors, the public and people with disabilities. A key request would be a Mayoral study of cost and benefits.
  
- Johanna Kasidi, 414 Fairway Village speaking for Fairway Village Condo Association
  - Would like a sidewalk on Spring Street which would continue near the Northampton Country Club. Wanted to explore the possibility of a multilane area on Spring Street to include bicycles and pedestrians.

5. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting:

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To approve the minutes from the March 19, 2019 meeting.	Jody Kasper	Gary Hartwell	Yes, 5 No, 0 Abstain, 2

6. Reports from departments and subcommittees/announcements/presentations:

- Department of Public Works (DPW) Updates – Director Donna LaScaleia:
  - Roadway Improvement Projects**
    - a. The Burts Pit Road paving and drainage improvements have been started;
    - b. Warner Brother will start Bridge and Glendale Roads in mid-May;
    - c. Chestnut, Spring and Cross Streets will be going out to bid;
    - d. The Clement Street Bridge surface will be going out to bid on May 08, 2019;
    - e. The water main break on Elm Street is being paved today and that part of the street is now open;
    - f. Jackson Street signals have new heads;
    - g. Mass DOT will oversee the exit 19 roundabout starting June of 2020 to be complete in 2021.
  
- Department of Planning and Sustainability Updates – Director Wayne Feiden:
  - a. North King roundabout 2020/2021;
  - b. Burts Bog bikeway August 2019 through June of 2020;
  - c. Standards for downtown Florence.
  
- Councilor Nash
  - a. PVRTA Bus Rider Forum will have a meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> for changing of the 44 advertising and moving the bus stop. All are welcome to attend;

- b. “Thank You” to the DPW for line striping on Pleasant Street and the Bridge Street School beacon;
- c. NETA and Extravaganja traffic updates:  
The Extravaganja event had a lower attendance approximately 5,000 possibly due to weather. Chief Kasper and Nancy Forrestall both agreed that there were no notable traffic or parking issues. Take off the agenda.

7. Matters before the Commission:

- a. Discussion of 19.XXX An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Pleasant Street:
  - Roberto’s Restaurant made renovations to make the restaurant handicap accessible; The ramp on their private property took away the handicap parking space;
  - This was referred to the Northampton Disability Commission for their review. Their recommended placement is in front Roberto’s on Pleasant Street.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Move to floor discussion.	Gary Hartwell	Nancy Forrestall	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 0

Director LaScalia stated the attached map for parking schedule on Pleasant Street is not current. There is a raised crosswalk across Pleasant Street.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 19.XXX An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Pleasant Street to City Council with a positive recommendation.	Debin Bruce	Jody Kasper	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- b. Parking on Chestnut Street:
  - Director LaScalia reported cars parked on the east side of street;
  - No Parking signs are not visible, hidden behind trees. It is suggested to extend the no parking 35 feet north to correct the sign.

Public Comment:

Rich Cooper, 136 South Main Street, Florence

- Line striping for parking, sign visibility, westerly side of street with no restrictions.

Julie Newsome, 47 Chestnut Street, Florence

- Trees are blocking the sign;
- Has no objections to losing the parking spot;
- Different parking space to not allow parking on the other side of Cooper’s Corner.

Councilor Nash reported for Councilor Murphy that there should be line painting and no parking on the westerly side.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 19.XXX An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Chestnut Street to City Council with a positive recommendation.	Debin Bruce	Gary Hartwell	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 0

6. New Business

- None.

7. Adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn.	Gary Hartwell	Jami Albro-Fisher	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 0