



# CITY of GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Robert B. Ryan, Chairman      Larry Ingersoll, Secretary

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CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA

**A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall.**

**The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert Ryan at 6:00 p.m. Attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll, Michael Mulcahey, Michael Mitchell, City Councilor Steven LeBlanc, residents Manuel Naves, Lena Naves, Jessica Marques, Manny Gaipo and Sunbanque owner Glen Asaro.**

## *MINUTES*

Approval of the minutes from our 10/24/19 meeting

*A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the minutes.*

Handicapped Parking Requests:

6 Elwell Street

*After speaking to the requestor and his home health aide, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the space.*

*There are no other spaces on Elwell Street and the sign can go in front of the house.*

**ORDER #CC2019-038 (Councilor Hecht) ORDERED** that the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" be **AMENDED** as follows:

Sec. 22-280 "Fifteen-minute parking" by **DELETING**: Prospect Street, easterly side, from a distance of 15' from its intersection with Friend Street in a southerly direction for a distance of 33'.

Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones" by **ADDING**: Prospect Street, easterly side, from its intersection with Friend Street in a southerly direction to its intersection with Fears Court.

*There was much discussion on this order from the Commission members, Mr. Asaro and Councilor LeBlanc. Mr. Asaro read several letters he had received requesting that no parking changes be made. He said that the indent in front of 156 Prospect Street has been there forever (possibly since the 1920's) and was actually made so cars could park at the small market that used to be there. He said people with disabilities need to use those spaces as they*

*are unable to walk up the hill of Friend Street. He said there is no rear entrance to the business from his parking lot in the rear.*

*The TC found that the area in front of his business is approximately 50 feet in length. Allowing for the no parking 20 feet from an intersection, would only leave a 10 foot spot which is not enough for a motor vehicle. When the current 'No Parking Here to Corner' sign was put in, it was not installed 20 feet from the intersection. A question concerning Fears Court was also brought up. The street is partially owned by Mr. Asaro and is a private right of way to a home and garage. The question is would the 20 feet from an intersection rule be used from a private right of way? The TC will be asking the City Solicitor for a ruling on this question.*

*A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the order. The VOTE FAILED 3-2.*

*A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **RECOMMEND** that if the Council votes to pass the order, removing the parking from 156 Prospect Street, then the owner should go through the clerk's office and apply for a handicapped parking space in front of the building. This vote **PASSED** 4-1*

*The following were continued from our previous meetings:*

**ORDER #CC2019-033 (Councilor Gilman) ORDERED** that the City Council request that the Police Department, Fire Department, the Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission review and comment on Article V, "Stopping, Standing and Parking," Section 22-145(a), (b) and (c) specifically as it pertains to the question of whether additional ordinances and/or signage is needed to improve public safety and public safety enforcement of said ordinance.

**FURTHER ORDERED** that this matter be referred to the Ordinances & Administration Committee, Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council.

*(September Meeting) After speaking to Councilor Gilman, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order for further review, and hear from the other departments listed.*

*Councilor Gilman explained that newer residents as well as some longtime residents, are not aware of a lot of the city parking ordinances. One of the solutions mentioned would be a courtesy notice given by the police department for a period before actual ticketing. (This had been done in the past sometime in the 1990's).*

*(October Meeting) Upon further discussion with the Commission and Councilor Gilman, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order for more review.*

*How to inform the public of these ordinances was discussed. Suggested were public announcements using the Gloucester Times and the Beacon, Good Morning Gloucester, Cable TV, Social Media and various city websites and Facebook pages.*

*If possible, interns could be used to create small articles highlighting each ordinance and by using photos, provide a good explanation of them.*

*The goal of this is public safety and awareness and after an informational period, use enforcement to reach the goal.*

*At this time we have not seen any recommendations from any of the other city agencies listed*

*(November Meeting) A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to **MOVE THE ORDER FORWARD, Back to the O&A.** The TC feels that the recommendations that have been made would be a good start to informing the public. It was later learned that the Councilor intends to withdraw the order.*

**ORDER #CC2019-034** (Councilors LeBlanc & Nolan) **ORDERED** that the City Council request that the Ordinances and Administration Standing Committee and the Traffic Commission review the parking at all times of motor vehicles and RV's on Western Avenue from the County Way Landing to the Avis R. Murray Tennis Courts.

*(September Meeting) After speaking to Councilor LeBlanc and the residents present, a **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to **CONTINUE the order for further review.***

*Many ideas and suggestions were brought up and as one resident stated, it was good that this could all be brought out and discussed as it has been hard to do this in the past.*

*No one wants to hinder special events but there is a need to clarify different city ordinances that are in conflict with each other. There was a consensus that stronger enforcement is needed and restrictions banning RV's parking on the Boulevard is necessary.*

*The City Solicitor also needs to be contacted to see exactly what jurisdiction the city has over Western Avenue between County way and Hough Avenue.*

*(October Meeting) After some discussion, a **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to **CONTINUE the order for more input and review.***

*There are several overlapping ordinances concerning Western Avenue parking and the best way might be to delete all of them and start over instead of deleting and amending the current ones.*

*The issue of R/V parking was discussed and the creation of a Special Event parking placard was brought up.*

*(November Meeting) A **MOTION** was made seconded and **PASSED** to **CONTINUE the order.***

*We have learned from the City Solicitor that Western Avenue from the bridge east is under the control of the City, while Western Avenue from the bridge west to Manchester is under control of the state.*

*All have agreed that there should be one set of guidelines for vendors at special events in designated areas. The TC believes that the Council's Special Event Committee should be involved in the discussions. This meeting was at its ending time (another one was scheduled for the room) and not much time could be used on this matter.*

The Commission may also discuss a crosswalk issue on Mason Street and a conflict of ordinances on Salt island Road.

*The TC was unable to get to the Mason Street issue and the Salt Island conflict will be resolved by the council.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**