



CITY of GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Robert B. Ryan, Chairman

Mike Mulcahey, Secretary

A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting conducted through Zoom video Conference Call and was recorded. Visit to review meeting at <http://gloucester-ma.gov/remote-public-meetings>.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert B. Ryan at 6:02 p.m. Attending were members Mike Mulcahey, Michael Mitchell, Anthony Bertolino and Councilors Barry Pett and Jen Holmgren

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from our 1/21/21 meeting

A MOTION was made and seconded to approve the minutes. VOTE PASSED

Handicap Parking Requests and Deletions:

33 Elm St, Ann Burton – Requestor

Councilor Pett spoke on her behalf in favor of the request. There was a question about the nature of the disability and reasons for request. Decision was put on hold until Councilor Pett could get more info from the requestor

269 East Main St, Shannon Muise – Requestor

Councilor Holmgren Spoke about the requestors situation and need for the space. There are already 2 spaces for the Gloucester Stage company and this space would make 3 in the same location.

A MOTION was made to decline the request – VOTE PASSED

Councilor Pett came back with info about the nature of the disability and expressed concerns that asking specifics of the disability is a violation of HIPPA. Chairman Ryan stated we ask about mobility and breathing issues we try not to ask for specifics just a general why they are requesting.

A MOTION was made to approve the Handicap Space on 33Elm St – VOTE PASSED

Dore & Whittier Traffic Analysis

Michelle Rogers was added as a panelist.

*Chairman Ryan opened discussion with a statement about the issues of Traffic with respect to the new school and the impact it would have on the neighborhood. After reviewing the **Traffic Analysis Report** provided by Michele Rogers of Dore & Whittier, the Chairman outlined all of the concerns with respect to traffic being **problematic** including but not limited to: Traffic congestion, illegal parking, neighborhood quality of life, safety and the impact that the proposed school traffic will have on Rt. 127 (Eastern Avenue) that intersects with Webster Street.*

In summary, the Commission was left with several unanswered questions pertaining to the report. One question not directly answered was ...at dismissal time a projected 264 autos will be at the school to pick up students ((60% of 440 students). The question was “where are the autos going to park as the plans only show a cueue of 90 autos, thus. leaving 174 autos with nowhere to park?”

Michelle Rogers asked the moderator to add the following members of her team as panelists:

*Jonathan Pope
Ben Lummis
Brad Dore
Fayssal Hussein*

Jonathan Pope opened the presentation by giving a background on the decision to build the new school in the Webster St Neighborhood.

Chairman Ryan requested the moderator to add the following as panelists:

*Mellissa Texiera
Val Gilman
Kathy Clancy
Sefatia Romeo-Theken*

Michelle Rogers gave a presentation on the existing site in reference to existing parking at the school and in the neighborhood and safety issues with inadequate handicap access to the existing school.

Fayssal Hussein gave presentation on Traffic, Traffic patterns in the neighborhood, existing and future traffic using data collected during the study.

Michelle Rogers concluded the presentation with their recommendations on changes to the area to mitigate traffic and parking for the area.

After the presentation there were questions that encompassed aspects of the report by the commissioners and the public.

Open to the public for questions related to traffic only. The following requested to speak:

Tracy O'Neill, 12 Friend St

Pamela Steele, 10 Pilots Hill

Patty Amaral, 14 Myrtle Sq

Patty Page, 3 Tidal Cove Way

Debra Liacos, 41 Woodward Ave

Jay Halbert, 4 Davis St EXT

Mary Ann Boucher, 93 Mt Pleasant Ave

Anne Rhineland, 16 Pine St

Olympia Palazzola, 57 Western Ave

Joe Palazzola, 57 Western Ave

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.