

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**A meeting was held on Thursday, July 7th, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
in the third floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall.**

The meeting was opened at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Robert B. Ryan. Attending were members Larry Ingersoll, Anthony Bertolino, Robert Francis and Michael Mulcahey. Also City Councilors Jackie Hardy and Paul McGeary, City Planning Director Greg Cademartori, Gee Avenue residents William and Dorothy Noble and Mary Helen Landergren, and residents Jeff Tarr and Patti Page.

AGENDA

Order #CC2011-026 (Councilor Hardy) Ordered that the speed limit for the entire length of Gee Avenue be set at 15 MPH.

*After a long discussion, speaking to concerned residents and examining the results of the JAMAR recorder, a MOTION was MADE, SECONDED and PASSED (5-0) to RECOMMEND a **20 MPH Speed Limit** on Gee Avenue. the TC also requested that the proper signage be posted accordingly (when the speed limit is accepted by the State) and that a yellow dividing line be painted on the road to remind people it is a two way road. The neighbors' main concerns are safety of area children as the street is narrow, has blind corners and driveways and is close to a school zone. The results of the JAMAR study (over 4600 vehicles during one week) showed the average speed is 18 mph and the 85th percentile is 23 mph. How the process works between the state and city in determining speed limits was explained to the residents. No one seemed to be in favor of making the street one way.*

Order #CC2011-027 (Councilor McGeary) Ordered the the GCO Sec. 22-270 (Parking Prohibited at All Times) be AMENDED by DELETING:

Eastern Avenue southerly side, from Hartz Street westerly for a distance of 40 feet.

After a discussion and speaking to Councilor McGeary and the owner of Jeff's Variety, a MOTION was MADE, SECONDED and PASSED (5-0) to

RECOMMEND the change in the ordinance, deleting the previous 40 foot restriction. This would allow for a 20 foot restriction of 'No Parking Here To Corner' and a sign should be installed stating same. Also, the TC recommended that diagonal lines be painted in the road to show the no parking area to help with enforcement.

A recommendation from Sarah Garcia (Comm. Dev. Dir) that would result in parking space changes in the area of the proposed Harbor Walk along the waterfront. (Maps will be available for viewing)

After a long discussion, a review of the maps provided by Greg Cademartori of the Planning Division and speaking to a concerned resident, a **MOTION** was **MADE, SECONDED AND PASSED to NOT RECOMMEND the proposed parking changes in their current form.** (Vote was 4-0 with member Robert Ryan abstaining)

The TC felt that the loss of the eight parking spaces (which includes two handicapped spaces in St. Peter's Park which would have to be relocated) was a big concern with the proposed design. At this time, there are approximately 1000 restaurant seats in the area and no adequate parking present to fill their need. A design suggestion was discussed that would keep the parking as it is in St. Peter's park. The TC also felt that there is a lack of knowledge associated with the plan and that other groups, committees and commissions should also be aware of what is proposed and weigh in on their opinions. The TC feels that a group meeting with everyone concerned along with the designers of the plan should be held in order for all to voice their opinions on the design. Member Anthony Bertolino felt that the entire project is counter-productive to the goals of the TC (looking for increased parking) and also felt that it would interfere with the current working waterfront. Member Robert Francis suggested that the whole design should be looked at to meet the needs of everyone in the proposed area (tourists, fishermen etc.). Member Larry Ingersoll suggested that if the present plan was approved, that the current truck parking on Harbor Loop be relocated and the area metered for use by the public and tourists as this area now is more of a tourist area with the Heritage Center and Fitz Lane Park. The parking of large trucks takes away from the goal of getting more tourists to visit the area.

(Note: Member Anthony Bertolino had to leave the meeting before the final item below)

A recommendation from Police Chief Michael Lane that a 'School Zone' be established in the area of the Faith Christian School on Washington Street. (Results of the recent JAMAR study will be available)

After a discussion and review of the JAMAR Study, a MOTION was MADE, SECONDED and PASSED (4-0) to ACCEPT the Recommendation of Chief Lane for a School Zone in the area of the Faith Christian School. The TC will support a council order asking for same.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ROBERT B. RYAN, Chairman

LARRY INGERSOLL, Secretary