

**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**A meeting was held on Thursday August 21st, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
in the third floor Conference Room
at Gloucester City Hall**

The meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert B. Ryan. Also attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll and Michael Mulcahey. Also attending at 6:35 p.m. were City Councilors Paul McGeary, Melissa Cox and William Fonvielle

AGENDA

(Items were taken out of order)

Approval of minutes from meeting of 7/24/14

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting of 7-24-14 as submitted.

Handicap Parking Requests:

1. Handicapped space to be added to the parking area of the Kettle Cove Public Landing (adjacent to Magnolia Beach off Shore Road)
(Requested by City Councilor William Fonvielle)

After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order as requested. The area in question presently has 8 parking spaces and the TC could see no reason why one can not be designated as handicapped only. The space can be whichever one the DPW chooses when installing a sign and markings.

2. Rather than add the proposed changes in the Lexington Ave handicapped parking spaces to the Code of Ordinances Councilor McGeary has decided they should go directly and only to the Traffic Commission just as the creation of new spaces would under the new handicapped parking space process.

We are therefore referring the following changes to you which have been requested by Ward 5 Councilor Fonvielle who is joined by Councilors Verga and Theken.

DELETE: “Lexington Avenue westerly side in a southerly direction for a distance of 30 feet from utility pole #4705. Imprint white lines for a distance of 19 feet at curb ramp. Move existing handicapped parking space three feet forward in a southerly direction. From utility pole to handicapped sign is 68 feet.”

ADD: “Lexington Avenue westerly side ,beginning at a point 20 feet from its intersection with Norman Avenue for a distance of 22 feet ,one space in a southerly direction with space to be adjacent to Magnolia Library.”

DELETE: “Lexington Avenue, westerly side .One space beginning at a point 172 feet from its intersection with Hesperus Avenue for a distance of 22 feet in a northerly direction.”

ADD: “Lexington Avenue, westerly side, beginning at appoint 190 feet from its intersection with Hesperus Avenue for a distance of 22 feet ,one space in a northerly direction to be aligned with handicapped curb ramp. “

*After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the order as requested. These changes will put the handicap spaces closer to the curb cuts on the sidewalks.*

ORDER #CC2014-032 (Councilor LeBlanc) ORDERED that the City Council amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, “Traffic”, Sec. 22-270.1 “Resident Sticker Parking Only” by adding a definition of “resident parking sticker” as follows: “Resident parking sticker shall mean a parking sticker for persons who demonstrate proof of Gloucester residency at one of the streets or areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 and ownership of the vehicle to be stickered. The sticker shall differ in size, color and shape from a resident beach sticker and shall say “NOT FOR BEACH.”

FURTHER ORDERED that this matter of distinguishing Resident Beach Stickers from Resident Parking Stickers and changing and improving signage at areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 and adding the areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 to Sec. 22-176(b) “Penalties for parking violations-in beach district”

*After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the matter until the next meeting in which Councilor LeBlanc can attend as the TC has numerous questions that need to be addressed.*

ORDER #CC2014-033 (Councilor Cox) ORDERED that the City Council amend the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic” Sec. 22-284 entitled “Service or loading zones” by:

ADDING “(a)” before the words “The following locations;”

and by **ADDING** a new subsection (b) as follows:

“(b) Overnight parking shall be allowed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. daily in all loading zones designated in this section;”

*After a discussion and speaking with Councilor Cox, a **MOTION** was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order with the following change: the time limit under new subsection (b) should read 6:00 pm.. to 6:00 am. This time change was agreed upon by both the TC and Councilor Cox.*

and by **amending** the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic” by **DELETING** Sec. 22-155 “Parking Prohibited 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m. from December 15 to March 15;” and

Note: This deletion is for the old winter overnight parking ban which has not been in effect for many years. It will not affect the current snow emergency parking bans.

FURTHER ORDERED that all signage designating loading zones under Sec. 22-284 be replaced with signs which state that overnight parking is allowed.

*Signs should read 'NO PARKING **LOADING ZONE 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. only**'*

This allows the loading zones to be used for regular parking for Main Street establishments during the evening hours.

ORDER #CC2014-034 (Councilor McGear) ORDERED whether the City Council wishes to petition the state to lower the speed limit on Brightside Avenue to 20 miles per hour.

*After a discussion and review of the results of the speed study, a **MOTION** was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order.*

The study showed 16,745 vehicles using Brightside Avenue during a one week period. The average speed of the vehicles was 21-22 mph, and the 85th percentile was between 26-28 mph. The percentage of vehicles exceeding the current speed limit (30 mph - thickly settled district) was 1.2%.

Based on the study and the road's steep incline, curves, lack of sidewalks and narrowness, the TC felt that a 20 mph request would make the street safer for walking and traveling.

The TC also reviewed the results of the Friend Street speed study and at this time are not making any recommendations to lower the speed limit.

During the one week study, approximately 10,580 vehicles used Friend Street. The average speed was 21 mph and the 85th percentile was 27 mph. 3.1% of the vehicles exceeded the current speed limit (30 mph - thickly settled district).

An e mail from City Councilor Robert Whynot was read to the board concerning the installation of a traffic signal light at the intersection of Washington Street and Centennial Avenue. The TC spoke with the councilors present and the plans for the Washington Street corridor project will need to be viewed as to the status of a traffic signal light.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ROBERT B. RYAN, Chairman

LARRY INGERSOLL, Secretary