

# CITY OF GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

*A meeting was held on Thursday April 28th, 2016 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 Robert Francis, City Councilors Joseph Ciolino, Scott Memhard and Melissa Cox and residents Cindy Cafasso Donaldson, O. Vincent Cafasso, Carol Cafasso, Valerie Marino, Kathleen Cafasso, Bill Donaldson, Robert Merchant, Rick Gonzalez, Barbara Kennedy, Annette Kennedy (all for the Plum Street matter), Joan Duchane (Warner Street matter), Norma and Paul Ciaramitaro (Perkins Road matter) and Nathaniel Tardiff (Derby Street matter)

## AGENDA

Approval of the minutes from the 3/24/16 meeting

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

### **Handicapped parking requests:**

- Councilor Cox is requesting the removal of a handicapped parking space at #46 Warner Street.

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Cox and the original requestor a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to NOT RECOMMEND the request.*

*Councilor Cox said that the neighborhood could use additional parking and mentioned that the requestor has a driveway. The requestor reiterated her reasons from her original request stating she uses the space as do others who visit her who have handicapped placards. Councilor Cox said the layout of the handicapped space is off, resulting in some unused space and if it was realigned it should open up space for another vehicle. The TC recommended that the DPW look into possibly of realigning the space closer to the driveway at #46 and also repaint the handicapped street marking as it has faded.*

- Rocky Neck Cultural Center is requesting a handicapped parking space opposite their location of #6 Wonson Street.

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Memhard, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the request. The handicapped space will have to be on the opposite side of the street closest to the Cultural Center as there is no parking allowed on the even side of the street.*

- One space at 11 Perkins Road

*After a discussion and speaking to the requestor, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the matter until a ruling can be received from the **City Solicitor** concerning Perkins Road. Evidently, parking on Perkins Road is in spaces on the street which are assigned by a parking committee headed by Brenda Wasnick (#6 Perkins Road). The requestor is asking that the handicapped space be designated for her use only. The TC believes that handicapped spaces can NOT be assigned to one specific person and that the granting of a space on Perkins Road would not be in accordance with the law.*

- Councilor Scott Memhard is requesting the TC to re-evaluate the handicapped parking space at #6 Plum Street.

*After speaking to Councilor Memhard and the many residents of the area that were in attendance, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **NOT RECOMMEND** any changes to the current space at #6 Plum Street. Although there were a couple of residents from East Main Street present, none voiced their opposition.*

- Councilor Cox is requesting an additional Handicapped/Disabled veteran parking space in front of the new Veteran's Clinic at 201 Main Street. It is intended to serve veterans from 7-5 Monday-Friday

*After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** a second handicapped space to be placed next to the current one in front of #201 Main Street. **NOTE: There can be NO time restrictions on a handicapped space. The time restriction part of the request will have to be deleted.***

The following was continued from our 3/24/16 meeting:

**Order # CC2016-010** (Councilor Cox) **ORDERED** that the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Sec. 22-267 "One Way Streets-Generally" be amended by **ADDING** Derby Court from the intersection of Maplewood Avenue to Derby Court and Derby Court to Derby Street in a northwesterly direction.

*(March meeting) After a discussion and speaking with Councilor Cox, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the Order until the TC can conduct a group site visit and also speak to the neighbors on the street. The TC feels that a safer direction for traffic entering the street would be to have the one way direction go in the opposite as what was requested. The TC would like to get the residents input on this matter.*

*(April meeting) After a group site visit and speaking to some residents of the street, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the request.*

*Residents said people use the road as a short cut to avoid traffic at the end of Derby Street and it is a narrow road with no sidewalks making it unsafe with vehicles speeding through. The driveways on the street are angled to provide access in the direction requested.*

***Also, an order will need to be submitted requesting that the current Stop sign ordinance of a stop sign at the intersection of Derby Court and Maplewood Avenue be deleted as it will not be needed with the street being one-way.***

**Order #CC2016-016** (Councilor Memhard) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission perform a speed study on Rockport Road from the intersection of Thatcher Road northeasterly to its intersection with Beachland Avenue to determine whether there should be a speed limit of 20 mph.

*After a discussion, speaking with Councilor Memhard and reviewing the speed study, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to RECOMMEND that the City Council request Mass DOT to approve a 20 mph speed limit.*

*Although the results of the study showed most vehicles within the current 25 mph limit, the TC took into consideration that the street is narrow, has no sidewalks and has lots of foot traffic coming and going to the beach. A lower speed limit would do a lot to improve pedestrian safety in the area.*

**Order #CC2016-017** (Councilor Memhard) **ORDERED** that the GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” be amended by **ADDING** Main Street, northerly side from a point beginning 77 feet from its intersection with Scott Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 30 feet; and

Amend Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” by **ADDING** Main Street, northerly side from a point beginning 77 feet from its intersection with Scott Street in a westerly direction for a distance of 30 feet; and

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Memhard, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the request.*

*The area in question is between the entrance and exit of a gas station and vehicles parked in this area obstruct the view of vehicles exiting the business. The TC feels that this would make the area safer for vehicles entering onto Main Street.*

Amend Sec. 22-265 “Turning movements-Generally” by **ADDING** “Right Turn Only” for vehicles exiting the gas station at 354 Main Street, allowing vehicles to exit with the flow of oncoming traffic.

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Memhard, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to NOT RECOMMEND the request. (Vote was 3-0 with member Ryan abstaining)*

*The TC feels that traffic exiting from a business onto a two way street can not be restricted in this manner. In doing so, it would be harmful for the business and also create many other requests for nearly any other business in the city that exits onto a two way street.*

**Order #CC2016-018** (Councilor Memhard) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee review recent amendments to Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 concerning parking prohibited at all times on Mt. Pleasant Avenue in the vicinity of its intersection with Gerring Road.

**FURTHER ORDERED** that Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” – “Mt. Pleasant Avenue” be amended by **DELETING** “Mt. Pleasant Avenue” in its entirety after the words “southerly side” and by **ADDING** “beginning at a point 168 feet from its intersection with Gerring Road for a distance of 151 feet in a westerly direction.”

**FURTHER ORDERED** that Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” – “Mt. Pleasant Avenue” be amended by **DELETING** “Mt. Pleasant Avenue” in its entirety after the words “southerly side” and by **ADDING** “beginning at a point 168 feet from its intersection with Gerring Road for a distance of 151 feet in a westerly direction.”

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Memhard, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the request.*

*This change fine tunes the existing ordinance regulating parking in that area.*

**Order #CC2016-019** (Councilor Memhard) **ORDERED** that the Ordinance & Administration Committee consider the placement of a crosswalk on Eastern Ave. in the vicinity of Pond Road and the adjacent shopping area north of Pond Road to assist persons crossing Eastern Ave. (Rte. 127) from the nearby bus stop to the shopping area.

*After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Memhard, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the request.*

*The City Council or DPW may have to work with Mass DOT to facilitate the installation of the crosswalk. The TC feels that it is needed as there is a CATA bus stop at the NW corner of Eastern Avenue by the Captains Lodge and people are attempting to cross the busy street to Pond Road with no crosswalk.*

*The crosswalk would go from the NW corner of the Captains Lodge to the NE corner of the lot where the Common Crow is located.*

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.**

**ROBERT B. RYAN, Chairman**

**LARRY INGERSOLL, Secretary**