

CITY OF GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

*A meeting was held on Thursday August 25th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
in the third floor Conference Room
at Gloucester City Hall*

The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert B. Ryan at 6:00 p.m. Attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll, Michael Mulcahey and Robert Francis, City Councilors Val Gilman, Melissa Cox and Sean Nolan, and residents Wayne and Marsha Munroe, Paul Francis, Audra Dainora, David Grace and David Cromidas.

AGENDA

Approval of minutes from our 7-28-16 meeting

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

Handicap Parking request: one space near 10 Burnham Street

*After speaking to the requestors and a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the space.*

The requestors each have a handicapped placard and have no parking in front of their home as there is a guardrail present and also no parking allowed on that side of the street.

The handicapped parking space should be located on Thomas Court, westerly side and can be affixed to a sign post already present that states 'No Parking Here To Corner'. (At #2 Thomas Court)

one space at 146 Main Street (Santander Bank)

*After speaking to Councilor Cox and a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED (1 negative vote - member Ingersoll) to **CONTINUE** the request until the TC can speak with a representative of Santander Bank.*

There currently is a handicapped space on Main Street, by the entrance to Bank Gloucester (approx. 60 feet from the Santander entrance) that is used by CVS and the other businesses in that area. There is a bus stop in front of Santander bank. Member Ingersoll feels that the current space is conveniently located and if it is moved, CVS may come forward asking for a space closer to their business which would result in yet another metered space being removed from Main Street. Santander Bank has 2 spaces in their rear lot, but no handicapped access to the building from that location. Over the past few years, many Handicapped and Loading Zone spaces have been approved for Main Street and the amount of metered parking has been reduced considerably.

The following were **continued** from our previous meeting:

Handicap Parking request: Re-position one space on Lexington Avenue

(July Meeting) The TC had questions for Councilor Nolan who was unable to attend. There appears to be a Loading Zone in that area also which may have to be deleted or moved.

*A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order.*

*(August Meeting) After speaking with Councilor Nolan and a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **APPROVE** the relocation of the Handicapped Space.*

By DELETING: One 19 foot handicapped parking space, Lexington Avenue, easterly side, in a southerly direction, 58 feet from its intersection with Norman Avenue.

And by ADDING: One 19 foot handicapped space, Lexington Avenue, easterly side, in a southerly direction, 26 feet from its intersection with Norman Avenue.

There is currently a loading zone sign present that has NO city ordinance attached to it and was never approved. This should be removed.

The current 'No Parking Here to Corner' sign is placed wrong and will need to be moved to 20 feet from the corner to allow for the handicapped space access.

Order #CC2016-034 (Councilor Gilman) ORDERED that the Traffic Commission conduct a site visit in order to make recommendations of safe traffic flow patterns and parking at the intersection of Holly Street and Washington Street; and that the Traffic Commission make a written recommendation to the Ordinance & Administration Standing Committee on the findings of their review including whether any traffic ordinance amendments to the Gloucester Code of Ordinances are recommended.

*(July Meeting) After a long discussion and speaking to the parties concerned, it was decided that a group site visit be conducted to obtain proper measurements. A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order.*

The area has been a concern for some time and the city has been unable to provide a map that shows property lines and ownership. Many issues were discussed (pedestrian safety, loading zones, parking, crosswalk and signage) but at this time without a proper map nothing could be acted upon at this meeting.

The owners of the property will paint a line showing their boundary and this should help answer other questions that everyone has during the site visit.

(August Meeting) After a discussion, a group site visit and speaking to the concerned parties, several MOTIONS were made separately for each issue. They are as follows:

- **LOADING ZONE:**

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to RECOMMEND that a LOADING ZONE be created on the northerly side of the Holly Street connector (where the dumpsters are now kept) to read as follows:

AMMEND GCO Sec. 22-284 (Loading Zones) by ADDING:

Holly Street connector, northerly side, 20 feet from its intersection with Washington Street, for 35 feet in an easterly direction.

Hours posted on the Loading Zone to be weekdays 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also request the DPW to install a 'No Parking Here to Corner' sign 20 feet in from each end of the Loading Zone

The area between Washington Street and Holly Street (dumpster area) is 75 feet long.

- **PARKING by the ISLAND:**

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to RECOMMEND the following:

To create eight (8) perpendicular parking spaces on the Holly Street side of the island, starting at the northerly end, for 72 feet (9 foot wide spaces) in a southerly direction to the existing crosswalk at the southerly side of the island.

It is imperative that the lines designating the parking be painted and also ask that cross hash marks be painted from the end of the crosswalk to the southerly end of the island to discourage parking in that area.

- **RELOCATION OF CROSSWALK:**

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED (one negative vote - member Mulcahey) to RECOMMEND the following:

Relocate the existing crosswalk 15 feet north to the end of the current traffic island. From the westerly side of Washington Street it would be in a straight line and from the island to approximately 5 feet from the driveway at #555 Washington Street it would be angled slightly towards pole #115-1.

This is being recommended for several reasons.

The current crosswalk has cars parked on both sides by the island making it difficult to see people crossing. Cars are continuously parking on the existing crosswalk. Cars are blocking the private driveway at 555 Washington Street.

There currently is NOT a curb cut on the Washington Street side of the existing crosswalk. This new crosswalk location may also require that the STOP sign at the southerly end of the island be moved back (northerly) several feet and the painted stop line being removed as the new crosswalk will serve as a stop line.

Also, if the crosswalk is moved, we will need to adjust the number of parking spaces by the island, but the TC and neighbors feel this would solve several of the safety problems in the area.

- *PARKING IN FRONT of the BUILDING (1 Holly Street - Willow Rest)*

*A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **RECOMMEND that two 'Parallel Parking Only' signs be installed in front of #1 Holly Street.***

The first sign would be 60 feet from it's southerly intersection with Washington Street for a distance of 40 feet in a northerly direction. The second sign can be installed at the end of the 40 foot area. Both signs should have an arrow pointing to the parking area.

This was another safety recommendation as cars are currently parking nose in and are extending out into the travel area and also blocking pedestrian passage in front of the building.

- *INSTALLATION of a SIDEWALK:*

Councilor Gilman spoke to the DPW Director about a permanent sidewalk that was discussed at the site visit and meetings. He informed her that it would be an estimated cost of \$25,000 and was unsure if there was funds budgeted for its installation.

There is also an issue with the height of the sidewalk matching the front of the building. At this time it was decided to wait until what changes, if any, are made to the front of the building.

There was also a discussion of a painted 'virtual' sidewalk instead of a permanent one and again it was decided to wait and see how these recommendations work out if enacted and any building plans are final.

The TC is aware of possible plans to remodel the front of the Willow Rest business and some of these recommendations may need to be revisited if that occurs.

The TC also asked that the word STOP be painted at the end of Holly Street at its intersection with the connector road and also at the end of its intersection with Washington Street (southerly end of the island).

As with all these recommendations, with signs in place, it gives people guidance as to where they can park, makes the area safer for travel and also allows for better enforcement of illegal parking issues.

ORDER #CC2016-036 (Councilor Cox) **ORDERED** that the GCO Sec. 22-191 (Established off-street parking areas) be amended by:

DELETING “eight” and **ADDING** “nine;” and amend Sec.22-288 “Off-Street parking areas” by **ADDING** Proctor Street Parking Lot (Map 15, Lot 109);

After speaking to Councilor Cox, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order.

This order makes the Proctor Street lot one of the established off-street city parking areas.

The TC noted that there are not any handicapped parking spaces in the lot and recommended that 2 be marked out.

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

ROBERT B. RYAN, Chairman

LARRY INGERSOLL, Secretary