



CITY of GLOUCESTER
TRAFFIC COMMISSION

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Robert B. Ryan, Chairman
Larry Ingersoll, Secretary

2017 MAY 22 AM 8:02

A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall.

Members are encouraged to conduct their own site visits previous to the meeting

AGENDA

- Approval of the minutes from our 4/27/17 meeting
- Handicapped Parking request

Order #CC2017-012 (*Councilor Cox*) **ORDERED** that Chapter 22, Sec. 22- 288 “Off-street parking areas” the Town Landing parking lot (St. Peter’s Square), be **AMENDED** by **ADDING** one handicap parking space on the Commercial Street side of the Town Landing parking lot, and **AMEND** the number of parking spaces as shown on Drawing No. 30003, dated August 27, 1957, the original of which is on file in the office of the City Clerk;

Order #CC2017-011 (*Councilor Cox*) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission review the parking spots on Pleasant Street from Franklin Square to 32 Pleasant Street and traffic flow in order to address the safety issue of the two way traffic.

FURTHER ORDERED that the Ordinances & Administration Committee, depending on the results of the Traffic Commission’s review, shall recommend to the full Council possible traffic ordinance amendments.

Order #CC2017-013 (*Councilor O'Hara*) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission review the beach no parking areas for possible expansion of beach no parking areas.

The following were continued from our previous meeting:

ORDER #CC2017-010 (*Councilor Gilman*) **ORDERED** that the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee request that the Traffic Commission perform a speed study on Riverview Road to determine whether there should be a speed limit of 20 mph

(April Meeting) The speed study has not yet been conducted. After a discussion and speaking to Councilor Gilman and a resident, a good location to put the meter was decided upon.

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the order until the results of the speed study are done.

At the request of the Mayor's Office, to have a review of the one-way Kent Circle restriction.

(April Meeting) After a discussion and hearing from many residents and people concerned, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to conduct a site visit of the area which now includes the intersection of Essex and Western Avenue, before a review can be completed.

The residents of Kent Circle who attended, and also sent e mails, were all in favor of leaving it the way it is now. Some residents of Western Avenue and beyond wanted it back to either two way, or changed to the opposite direction.

A check of police department records showed no accidents involving either intersection of Kent Circle from February of 2015 until this meeting.

Mayor Romeo-Theken stated the original order was not permanent and was meant to be reviewed and that the intersection of Western and Essex Avenues is a bigger problem and needs some type of signage and/or regulation.

Councilor LeBlanc stated that the one way restriction was done for safety reasons and not for the convenience of other West Gloucester and Magnolia residents who use the road as a short cut to skip the Western and Essex Avenue intersection. He said a previous meeting before the original one way request was attended by 45 people who were all in favor of the one way designation.

The TC originally chose the direction of the one way as southwesterly because it allows the traffic to flow into Kent Circle from Essex Avenue and onto Western Avenue without crossing traffic. If the one way was changed to the other direction, traffic entering from Western would have to cross traffic at both Western and again when entering Essex Avenue, which also has poor sight lines and would be a solid line of traffic if the bridge was up.

Everyone felt that some type of signage, road markings and lane markings needs to be done at the Western and Essex Avenue intersection.

After the site visit and review is completed, recommendations will need to be forwarded to the Mass DOT from the Council or Mayor's office. The Mayor believed that our state reps should both be invited to the site visit which has not had a date chosen as of this time.