



CITY of GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Robert B. Ryan, Chairman
Larry Ingersoll, Secretary

A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 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 Larry Ingersoll, Robert Francis and City Councilor Jamie O'Hara.

AGENDA

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

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

- 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;

*After a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **RECOMMEND that one of the current two HP spaces on the east side of the lot be relocated to the west side of the lot.** This way there would be no need to amend the current ordinance and it would not reduce the current parking space number. If additional HP spaces are needed, they can be added at a later date.*

The TC also questioned the map referenced (Drawing #30003 from August 1957) as there should have been a more recent map which should have been made when the park was bricked and redesigned.

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.

After a discussion, a *MOTION* was made, seconded and *PASSED* to **RECOMMEND** that ch. 22-270 (*Parking Prohibited at All Times*) be amended by *ADDING*:

Pleasant Street, westerly side, from Warren Street to Franklin Square.

There seems to already be an ordinance prohibiting parking from Prospect St. to Franklin Square on the westerly side and possibly this can be amended to include the area up to Warren Street.

There are two business concerned which have parking at the rear of their buildings and three condos which have their own parking. This would eliminate ten metered spaces and the meters can be used at other places in the downtown area which need them.

This would make the road safer as currently, it is very tight for two vehicles to pass by each other without one of them stopping.

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.

After speaking to Councilor O'Hara and a discussion, a MOTION was made to CONTINUE the order.

Most of the streets in the Good Harbor Beach area are currently posted but some are Saturday P.M., Sunday and holiday only, some are prohibited at all times and some have no restrictions. Some streets may have to be added (Hartz Street for example) and could be made for resident parking only. Councilor O'Hara, the TC and Ward One Councilor Memhard will continue to research the restrictions and speak to affected residents on their input. At this time the area to Wingersheek Beach is not an issue as the only street approaching it is already prohibited at all times.

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.

(May Meeting) After a discussion and viewing the results of the speed study, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the order for a 20 mph speed limit.

The speed study results showed approximately 3800 vehicles traveled the street in a seven day period. The 85th percentile was 24 mph with only 14 vehicles exceeding the

current (non-posted) 30 mph thickly settled limit. The TC as well as Councilor Gilman and the residents feel that this is still too much for the narrow road in which two vehicles cannot pass by, has no sidewalks and is all residential.

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.

(May Meeting) After a group site visit and further discussion. A MOTION was made, seconded and APPROVED to **RECOMMEND that no changes be made to the current Kent Circle one way restriction.**

*A second MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **RECOMMEND that the City Council, Mayor's Office and DPW work with Mass DOT to do the following:***

Create a second lane at the terminus of Essex Avenue from Kent Circle to Western Avenue. The lanes should be designated with the left lane (easterly) for Gloucester/Rockport and the right lane (westerly) for Magnolia/Manchester. There should be signage at both the Kent Circle and Western Avenue intersections informing vehicles of the options. The lanes should also be marked with road arrows.

This area is very wide and would help reduce the single long waiting line when the bridge is up, giving vehicles the option of turning right in a marked lane without trying to pass stopped vehicles as is the case now.

***Install a 'Keep Right' sign at the terminus of the traffic island at Essex Avenue and Western Avenue.** This would help prevent vehicles from turning onto the wrong lane of Essex Avenue when making the left turn from Western Avenue.*

Extend the double yellow line on Western Avenue approximately 50 feet in an easterly direction to help vehicles make the correct turn onto Essex Avenue

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.