

Public Safety Committee  
Council Chambers  
October 16, 2013  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor David Walker, Chairman  
Councilor James Gray  
Councilor Stephen Hervey  
Councilor Brian LaBranche

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilor Peter Lachapelle

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Gretchen Young, PE Construction  
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.  
Phil McGraw, Owner of Phagin's

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Accept Minutes-September 18, 2013

Item # 1 was not discussed.

2. Public Input

The public that were present were there for items already on the agenda.

3. Gonic-30-minute Parking Signs at Phagin's

Phil McGraw was present for item # 4 so this item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. McGraw stated that he is the owner of Phagin's Restaurant and that he would like the current "30 minute parking" sign removed or changed. He stated that his customers come to his restaurant for more than 30 minutes and that they have been receiving parking violation warnings on their cars. Mr. McGraw stated that everywhere else in the city has "2-hour parking" signs. Councilor Walker explained that the "30 minute parking" signs were specifically put up in this location when the restaurant was Corona Pizza. The request was made because the owners at the time were worried that the tenants of the nearby apartments would park in these spots for the full 2-hours and restaurant customers could not find a place. Councilor Walker told Mr. McGraw that if the signs were taken down completely there might be a problem with the tenants of the apartment building parking for long periods of time and there would be nothing the police could do to enforce. Councilor Gray said that he would support Mr. McGraw's request but wanted to make sure that he understood that there may be more of a parking problem as a result of changing the sign. Mr. McGraw stated that he understood but that he needed the time limit extended for his customers. Mr. McGraw also stated that he

would like the winter parking ban enforced because snow plows cannot get around cars that are parked in the roadway. Deputy Chief Dumas said that the DPW plow truck operators are quick to call to have the vehicles removed.

**Councilor Gray made a motion to recommend that full council approve changing the current “30 minute parking” in front of Phagin’s Restaurant to “2 hour parking”. The motion was seconded by Councilor LaBranche. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

#### 4. Salmon Falls Road-Speed Signs

Councilor LaBranche stated that Adele Nichols of 251 Salmon Falls Road sent an e-mail outlining her concerns about the traffic speeding on Salmon Falls Road. She said that she has lived at this residence for over 20 years. She is requesting more speed limit signs and a police vehicle daily on Salmon Falls Road. She likes to take her granddaughter for walks in a stroller along this road but they always end up in the trees on the side of the road because the motorists are not slowing down. She is also requesting sidewalks on the lower part of Salmon Falls Road. Deputy Chief Dumas said that Salmon Falls Road is patrolled for speeding more than any other place in the city and that they would continue to routinely patrol this area. Councilor Walker stated that sidewalks along this area is not practical. Councilor LaBranche asked Ms. Young where the speed limit signs were. Ms. Young was not sure but would look and email the committee. The committee discussed the issue and determined that there should be speed limit signs located near Autumn Street to notify any traffic turning onto Salmon Falls Road at this intersection. **Councilor LaBranche made a motion to recommend that full council approve “35 mph speed limit” sign immediately after Autumn Street in each direction. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gray. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

#### 5. Other

##### School Crossing Guards

Councilor LaBranche said that a resident had spoken to him about some of the school crossing guards. The resident stated that when there is a green light the guard will stop traffic to let the kids cross, particularly at the Washington Street/Brock Street intersection. Deputy Chief Dumas said that crossing guards all receive formal training and that they are suppose to continue to hold traffic when there is not enough time for students to entirely cross the street even if the light is green. Councilor Walker said that often the guard will stop traffic and allow groups of students to start crossing after the light has changed. He suggested that that the guard hold up the students and have them cross all at once. Deputy Chief Dumas said that they would review proper procedures with the crossing guards.

##### Community Center-Senior Citizen Signs

Ms. Young reminded the committee that in August they had discussed a request from Louisa Tapely of the Senior Citizens Center at the Community Center for seven (7) new "Senior Only" parking signs in addition to the two (2) existing ones. At that meeting the committee determined that these signs would not be enforceable. It was also the committee's opinion that the existing eight (8) designated handicap accessible parking spaces in the area would serve any visitors, including seniors, who had documented needs and had received a state issued handicap license plate/tag. The handicapped parking is enforceable. No action was taken. Since that discussion Ms. Tapely has filed a "right to know" with the city to determine the number of "Senior Only" signs that were originally installed. The Buildings and Grounds Supervisor verified that four (4) signs had been ordered. Ms. Young explained that she was bringing this back to committee because Ms. Tapely has now reached out the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, City Manager, and Mayor regarding these signs. Councilor Hervey asked Ms. Young if Ms. Tapely knew they weren't enforceable signs. Ms. Young said yes she knew. Councilor LaBranche said that this committee's function was to review safety concerns and wondered if this was a safety concern. Councilor Gray suggested that Ms. Tapely attend a City Council workshop. The committee members agreed that there was no safety concern and again, no action was taken. Ms. Young will send Louisa an e-mail or call her to let her know she could attend a workshop meeting to address the council regarding these signs.

#### No Parking Signs on Brock Street

Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young why there were "no parking" signs on Brock Street. He said that there had never been a concern with parking on the side of Brock Street so there was no need for all of the signs. He said that the signs were also not angled properly in many locations. Ms. Young said that she did not know why or when the decision was made to add all of the signs. This was kept in committee until next month in order to get more information.

#### Chestnut Hill Road-Speed Limit Signs

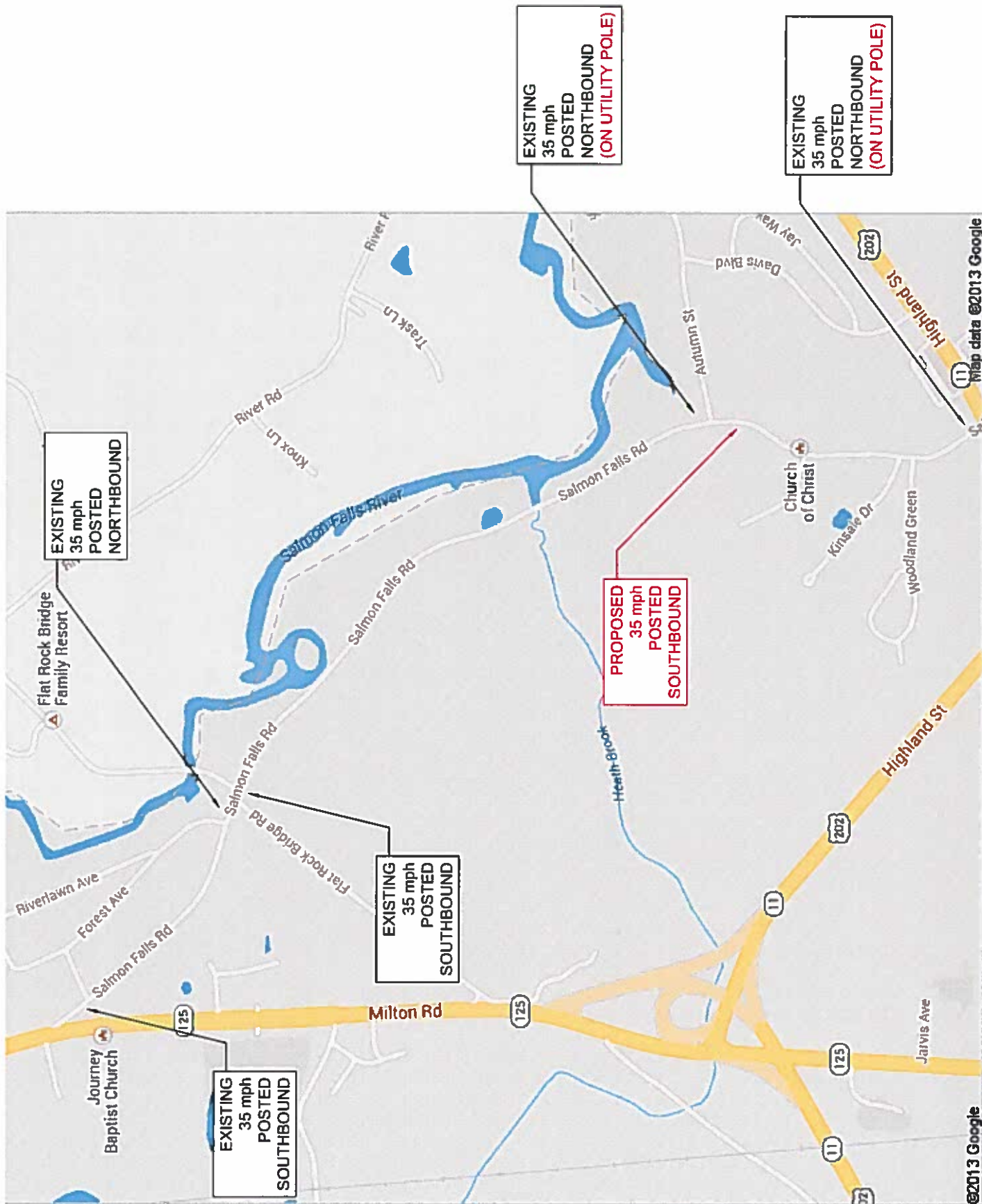
Deputy Chief Dumas said that Chestnut Hill Road was posted 30 mph in the north bound direction all the way to the Farmington town line but didn't think it was properly posted in the southbound direction. He stated that there was one sign at the Lydall property but didn't think that there were any other postings in this direction. Ms. Young said that she was not sure where signs were posted on this road but that she would find out and email the committee. The committee discussed that there should be a sign at the Farmington Town line, one to the south of Betts Road and one to the south of Little Falls Bridge Road. Deputy Chief Dumas also stated that the southbound speed limit sign at Lydall was set behind the guardrail and was difficult to see. Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young if the public works department could move the sign to a more visible location.

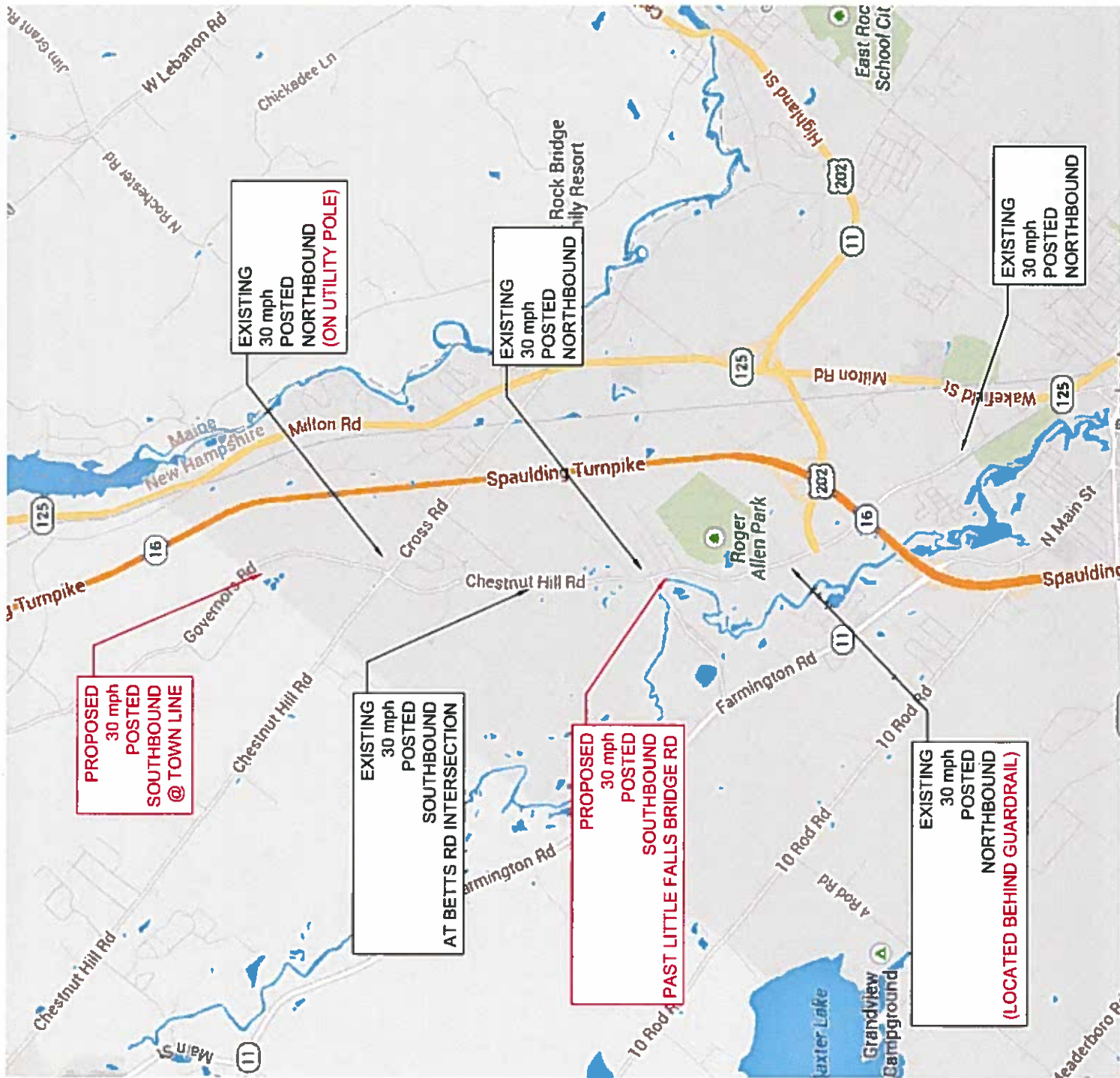
**Councilor Hervey made a motion to recommend to full council to install an additional three (3) "30 mph speed limit" signs as needed; one (1) on**

**Governors Road at the Farmington Town Line, one (1) on Chestnut Hill Road south of Betts Road, and one (1) on Chestnut Hill Road south of Little Falls Bridge Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor LaBranche. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

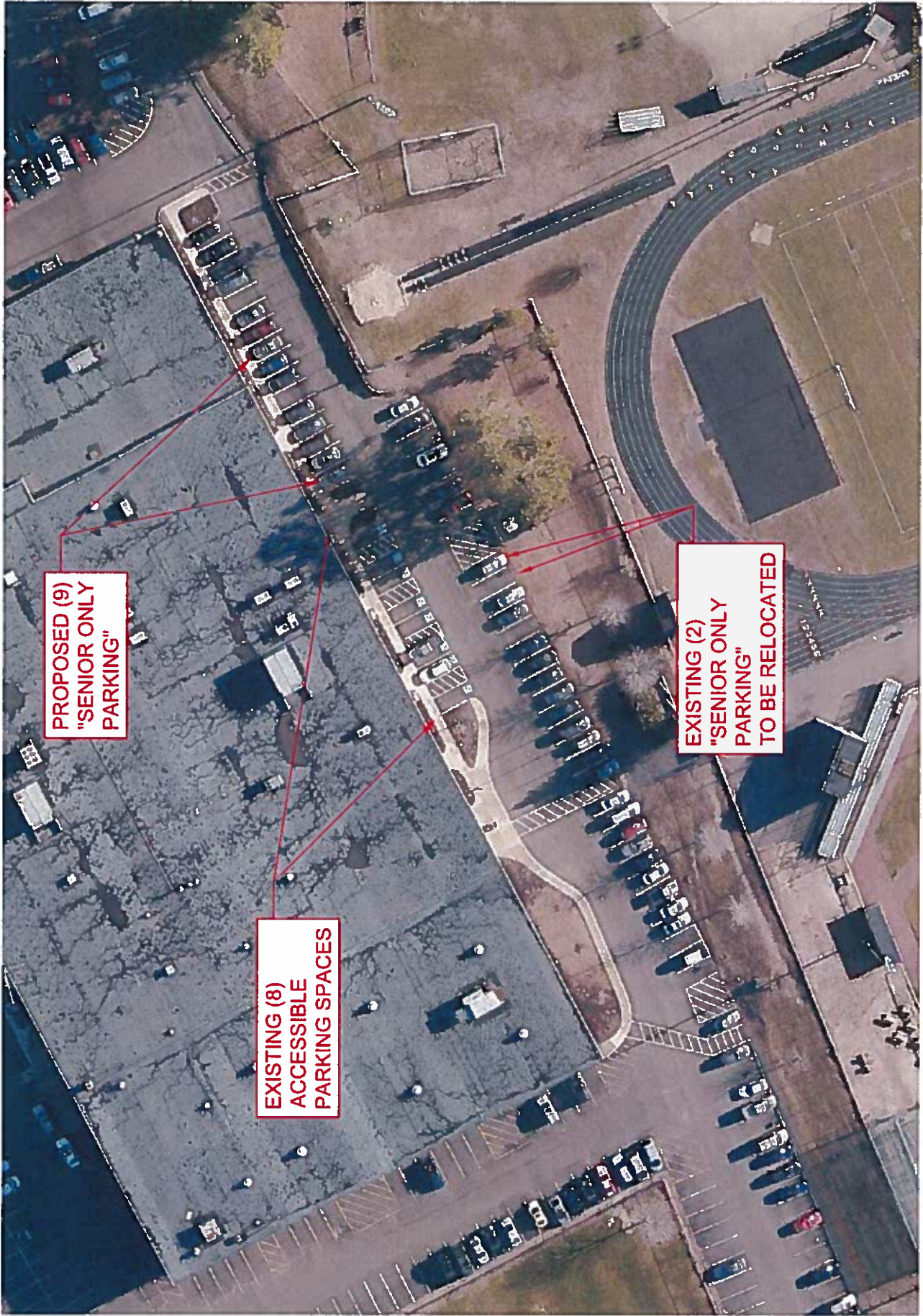
Councilor LaBranche made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded Councilor Gray. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Laura Miller  
Secretary II, DPW









PROPOSED (9)  
"SENIOR ONLY  
PARKING"

EXISTING (8)  
ACCESSIBLE  
PARKING SPACES

EXISTING (2)  
"SENIOR ONLY  
PARKING"  
TO BE RELOCATED