

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
April 16, 2014
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Jake Collins
Councilor Robert Gates
Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Gretchen Young, PE Construction Engineer
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Councilor James Gray
Councilor Mac Kittredge
Mayor T.J. Jean
Ellen Lankhorst, 569 Pickering Rd.
John McSheehy, Laurel Mays Cottage

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

1. Public Input

Ellen Lankhorst of 569 Pickering Road was present to request a 30 mph sign coming from the Gonic side of Pickering Road. She stated the first sign is where the State's section ends and the Rochester section begins, about two miles from the Dover border where Sixth Street begins. There are no other signs on that stretch of Pickering Road. The State's portion of Pickering Road is stated as 40 miles per hour. By the time the vehicles make it to 569 Pickering Road most cars are going 40 miles per hour or more. She said her driveway is circular but the visibility is still inadequate, and that it's better visibility from the Dover end of Pickering Road. She said she and her husband are fearful of pulling out of their driveway because vehicles coming from the Gonic area tend to appear suddenly over the incline. Deputy Chief Dumas said they could do an extra patrol and maybe place the speed trailer in the area. This was kept in committee until next month. Ms. Young will check to see if this area is state or city jurisdiction.

2. 107 North Main Street-Handicap Parking

This item was moved up on the agenda since John McSheehy was present to discuss the request. John McSheehy and his wife own Laurel Mays Cottage. He stated that a lot of their patrons are handicap and he would like a handicap parking spot near their building. Councilor Walker asked if there was a curb cut there. Councilor Gray asked Ms. Young if she had a chance to look at the area. Ms. Young said she looked at the last spot before the bridge on the opposite side of the road, but didn't look at that particular spot Mr. McSheehy was asking for. Ms. Young stated you need a 13 foot wide area to have a handicap parking spot. This was kept in committee until next month.

Ms. Young will take a look at the area to see if it meets the requirements for a handicap spot.

3. Lupine Lane-request for Child at Play sign by residents

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. The Children at Play signs are not recognizable signs.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny the Children at Play sign on Lupine Lane. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

4. Balsam/Hemlock Street-yield sign

Ms. Young gave a status update on the yield sign. The previously approved sign is up and all set.

5. Broad Street-parking complaint

Councilor Walker stated that a resident of Broad Street has complained that there is not enough room to drive down Broad Street when cars are parked on both sides. Deputy Chief Dumas said that Broad Street is a wide road and he doesn't see the need for parking signs.

Mayor TJ Jean made a motion to deny parking signs on Broad Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

6. US 202/Estes Road-State sign distance improvements

Councilor Walker summarized that the city has requested for several years, that the state improve this intersection. Ms. Young wanted to keep the Public Safety Committee posted on the road work on US 202/Estes Road. She stated that the NH Department of Transportation is planning a project in Rochester on US Route 202 at the intersection with Estes Road. This project is going to improve the safety of the intersection. This will include the sight distance for vehicles entering the intersection. The project will include removing the concrete wall and house on the southeast corner of the intersection, cutting vegetation on the south side of US Route 202 from approximately 600 feet east and west of the intersection, and some soil grading. There have been several accidents and improving the sight distance should help with safety. Ms. Young will keep the committee posted on this project.

7. Other

Sign budget

Ms. Young wanted to keep the committee updated on the sign budget. She said that last year they spent \$6,000.00 on signage and this year to date they have spent

\$7,500.00. Councilor Collins asked if it was because of damaged signs. Ms. Young said it was for all different reasons.

Corner of Liberty and Charles Street

Councilor Lachapelle requested to have the One-Way and Do Not enter sign repositioned to the right side of the street.

Councilor Lachapelle asked to have DPW reposition the One-Way and Do Not Enter sign on Liberty Street to the right side of the street at the discretion of DPW.

22 Little Falls Bridge Road-Blind Driveway Sign

The residents of 22 Little Falls Bridge Road are requesting a blind driveway sign.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to recommend installing a blind driveway sign at the expense of the home owner placed at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Traffic Light Route 11

Councilor Walker stated that someone from Cocheco River Estates has requested a traffic signal on Route 11. Ms. Young stated that there has been an extensive traffic study along this whole corridor to identify warrants for traffic signals. Councilor Walker asked for Ms. Young to provide information at the next committee meeting. This was held in committee until next month.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Hamman. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW

Wednesday April 16, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Roger Burkhart and Ellen Lankhorst of 569 Pickering Road in Rochester, hereby request that another 30 miles per hour sign be placed near this address.

The first sign stands where the State's section ends and the Rochester section begins, about two miles from the Dover border where Sixth Street begins. There is no other sign on this stretch of Pickering Road. The State's part of Pickering Road is stated as 40 miles per hour. People may slow down at the 30 mile per hour sign, but by the time they come near 569 Pickering Road most cars drive 40 miles per hour or more. Our driveway is circular but visibility is still inadequate. Visibility is better from the Dover end of Pickering Road. We are fearful pulling out of our driveway because cars coming from the Gonic area tend to appear suddenly over the incline.

We would appreciate your attention to this request. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


