

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Jake Collins

OTHERS PRESENT

Gretchen Young, PE Construction Engineer
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Councilor James Gray
Michael Bezanson, PE City Engineer
Chris Berg, Wright-Pierce
Candice Smith

Minutes

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

1. Public Input

Candice Smith was present to discuss a recent issue she had with the curbing on South Main Street by Bank of America. She said that she was leaving Bank of America facing south and when she was turning left she went up over the cement block and her vehicle got stuck. The people that helped her get her car off the cement curbing said this was not the first time that this has happened. She is requesting an "exit left" sign be installed, because she was not aware that she was going the wrong way. Ms. Smith had talked to the Bank of America and they said that this was the city's property. Councilor Walker asked if she was on bank property at the time and she said yes. This was kept in committee so the committee can check the area out to see if it is city property.

2. Cemetery Road-Speed Limit Sign

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. There are less than eight houses on the street. **Councilor Hamann made a motion to deny the "speed limit" sign on Cemetery Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

3. Upham/May/Columbus and Granite/Myrtle/Charles-Intersection Improvement

Chris Berg from Wright-Pierce Engineers was present to discuss some potential modifications to the Catherine Street, Sheridan Avenue, Knight Street Area Improvements. Mr. Berg stated there are two existing intersections that could be reworked to potentially minimize some points of conflict. He showed the existing intersection of Upham, May and Columbus, and pointed out some of the conflict areas. As part of this project, there is a potential to separate Upham and May, and have them intersect with Columbus at a more perpendicular angle. He also pointed out that making May one-way would eliminate a number of potential conflict points. Lastly, the proposed configuration would provide a

safer pedestrian crosswalk location on Columbus Street. Councilor Walker asked if the current width of May Street is enough for parking. Mr. Berg said they are currently parking half on the sidewalk and half on the road, he also said that the approved plan eliminates all parking and allow two-way traffic. Councilor Walker asked if there were homes on both sides of May Street and Mr. Berg stated yes there are and he also said that going one-way will add parking back for the residents. Deputy Chief Dumas said this will eliminate turning issues. Mr. Berg said that the proposed condition also helps with utility pole locations. Mr. Berg said in summary, that making May Street a one-way entering from Columbus Avenue would make the intersections perpendicular to Columbus Avenue, improve site distance, improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, improve utility layout and add additional parking on May Street. Mr. Berg said they have also reviewed the Myrtle Street, Granite Street and Charles Street intersection. They are proposing making Myrtle Street a one-way exiting onto Charles Street. The benefits of doing this is to make the intersections perpendicular to Charles Street, improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, improve utility layout and improve parking layout on Myrtle Street. Councilor Walker asked if the buses will have any problems turning. Mr. Berg stated no they would not. Councilor Walker asked what the construction schedule was. Mr. Berg said the construction starts in August. Drainage work would be done on Katherine, Upham and Knight Streets. Councilor Walker asked about the school schedule. Mr. Berg said that they could not avoid work during the school year but that they have scheduled work directly near the school to be completed during the summer. Councilor Walker said they should update the residents of May and Myrtle Streets of the changes they are proposing. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to support the changes to May and Myrtle Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

4. "Deer Crossing' Signage-Ten Rod Road

Councilor Walker stated that it was brought up at the last city council meeting that there have been accidents on Ten Rod Road from deer crossing. He said there were 4 deer hit in a year. Ms. Young asked if the signs should be placed in both directions. Councilor Walker said yes. Deputy Chief Dumas said one should be placed at Four Rod Road going north and the other should be placed at the town line heading into Rochester. **Councilor Walker made a motion to place two "deer crossing" signs; one near Four Rod Road and one at the Farmington line. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

5. DOT Response to Pickering Road Request

Councilor Walker stated that the City received a letter from William Lambert, PE with the state of NH DOT. Mr. Lambert said that he did not support reducing the speed limit as the committee requested. Based on a cursory review of the conditions, he said he cannot support reducing the speed limit. He found the subject length of Pickering Road to be comfortable at 40 mph. It further said that if the city should wish to take over year round maintenance responsibility of Pickering Road that the city would have a much broader authority for regulating it. Deputy Chief Dumas said that the police department is doing the best they can do to curb the issue. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to leave the speed limit on Pickering Road as is. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

6. New or Revised Lighting at the Intersection of Cross Road and Milton Road

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Ms. Young requested to have the street-light moved to the pole closer to the intersection about 25 ft. Councilor Walker said it does meet the street-light policy. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to move the street-light to the pole closer to the intersection. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hamann. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

7. Other

Traffic Light by CVS Pharmacy and the Bank

Councilor Hamann asked who owns the traffic lights by the CVS Pharmacy. Ms. Young said Poulin owns the property. She also said the stripe was painted in the wrong spot, she said they need to move the stop bar. She said she will send a letter on behalf of the Safety Committee, to Poulin requesting that the stop bar gets changed to the correct location.

Waldron-Maple Street

Councilor Hamann said that the one-way arrow has been painted over. Ms. Young will have the sign replaced.

Salmon Falls Road- "Handicap" sign and "School Bus" sign

Councilor Gates said Sherry Hall of 352 Salmon Falls Road sent him an e-mail requesting a "handicap" sign and a "school bus" sign. Her son is in a wheel chair and when he was on the wheel chair lift a car ignored the school bus warning lights and sign and went by. She said there could have been a serious accident and her son would have fallen off the chair lift. Deputy Chief Dumas asked Councilor Gates to send the e-mail to him. He stated that all they need is a license plate number and they can issue a summons to the driver of the vehicle. Ms. Young said you can be creative with the warning signs. Councilor Walker asked Ms. Young to look into the different signs that can be placed in the area. This was kept in committee until next month. Ms. Young will get the information regarding the signs.

Fillmore Street

Councilor Gray asked Deputy Chief Dumas if a directed patrol could be done and the speed trailer could be placed on 202 so people know that the speed limit has recently changed.

Councilor Hamann thanked Ms. Young for the signs on Washington Street.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Gates. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW