

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

December 7, 1999

6:00 PM

Chairman Clancy called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Clancy, Pinard, Hirschmann

Absent: Aldermen Reiniger, Cashin

Messrs: T. Lolicata, K. Provencher, Lt. Jaskolka, J. Harmes, E. Ganem

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Kevin Provencher on behalf of The Riverfront Park Foundation requesting various traffic signage changes as outlined herein.

Mr. Lolicata stated this item has been taken care of.

Mr. Provencher stated I want to thank Tom and the traffic guys for taking care of this situation. They did work closely with us.

Chairman Clancy asked did you talk to all of the tenants and residents down there to make sure that nobody is going to give us any grief.

Mr. Provencher answered yes. The issue was during business hours. They wanted temporary parking on the street during business hours. Tom is going to get them some parking for their businesses during business hours.

Mr. Lolicata stated they will have two-hour parking for the businesses down there. The girl that works until 8 PM or 9 PM will stay until 6 PM. It is for the length of the building and then it goes back to no parking.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Clancy advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

STOP SIGNS:

**On Sullivan Street, at Blucher Street, NEC, SWC 4-WAY
Alderman Thibault**

ONE WAY STREET:

**Huntress Street, from Prince Street to Summerside Avenue, northbound
Alderman Cashin**

RESCIND ONE WAY STREET:

**Huntress Street, from Summerside Ave. to Prince Street, southbound
(emergency)
Alderman Cashin**

**Removal of parking meter # 5036 , first meter north of exit from 540
Commercial Street – sight distance for safety exiting this driveway
Alderman Reiniger**

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM):

**On Cedar Street, southside, from Manhattan Lane to Willow Street
Alderman Reiniger**

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS (METER # 474):

**On Elm Street, eastside, from Orange Street to a point 25 feet southerly
Alderman Reiniger**

NO PARKING:

**On West Street, eastside, from Granite Street to a point 70 feet southerly
Highway Department**

**On South Commercial Street, eastside, from a point 220 feet north of South
Bedford Street to Granite Street
Alderman Reiniger**

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

**On Amherst Street, southside, from a point 90 feet east of Alfred Street to a
point 25 feet easterly
Alderman Sysyn**

**On Cedar Street, southside, from Manhattan Lane to Willow Street
Alderman Reiniger**

PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-8PM MON-SAT):

On South Commercial Street, eastside, from South Bedford Street to a point 220 feet northerly

Alderman Reiniger

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME:

On McQuesten Street, northside, from Second Street to Hill Street

Alderman Cashin

NO PARKING ANYTIME:

On McQuesten Street, northside, from Second Street to a point 65 feet east

Alderman Cashin

Alderman Hirschmann asked what is the emergency on Hunter Street.

Mr. Lolicata answered it was non-street.

Alderman Hirschmann asked it is to rescind the one-way street.

Mr. Lolicata answered right and reverse it.

Alderman Hirschmann asked you put it in wrong.

Mr. Lolicata answered it said Lewis instead of Summerside to begin with.

Mr. Lolicata stated there is also an addendum to the traffic agenda as follows:

RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS 8AM-6PM (UNLIMITED PARKING)

On Shasta Street, north side, from Maple Street to Beech Street

Alderman Shea

PARKING 2 HOURS 8 AM-6 PM:

On Shasta Street, north side, from a point 165 feet west of Maple Street to a point 35 feet westerly

Alderman Shea

STOP SIGNS:

On Pickering Street at Sunset Drive, sec

On Pickering Street at Gurtner Street, nwc

Alderman Wihby

NO PARKING:

On Silver Street, south side, from a point 170 feet east of Beech Street to a point 100 feet easterly

Alderman Shea

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

On Rimmon Street, west side, from a point 270 feet south of Kelley Street to a point 25 feet southerly

Alderman Thibault

NO PARKING:

On Hanover Street, north side, from Mammoth Road to Grant Street

Alderman Sysyn

NO PARKING:

On Hanover Street, north side, from Belmont Street to a point 100 feet easterly

Alderman Sysyn

Alderman Hirschmann stated I have a question on stop signs. On Pickering Street is that creating a four-way stop sign.

Mr. Lolicata replied no. Those are offsetting streets.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Sysyn requesting the placement of Pedestrian Crosswalk Cones at two locations for the safety of children crossing Bridge Street, as enclosed herein.

Chairman Clancy stated she wants those cones like in front of the Derryfield Country Club now.

Alderman Hirschmann asked who is going to put them up.

Chairman Clancy answered the two stores.

Mr. Lolicata asked how are these going to be purchased and am I supposed to be getting these through the State.

Chairman Clancy replied as far as I know.

Mr. Lolicata stated I don't want these going up throughout the whole City of Manchester. You know how I feel about these in the roads. It is okay as long as they are maintained the way you are saying.

Chairman Clancy replied Kanteres is going to take care of one of them and Jerome Duval is going to take care of the other one.

Mr. Lolicata responded I understand that. I just don't want this to boomerang throughout the City.

Chairman Clancy stated we are going to have one more cone that is going to be in front of the courthouse at 300 Chestnut Street. The people in the courthouse are going to take care of it. I talked to the sheriff. We are going to buy three cones. They are like \$30 or \$40 a piece right?

Mr. Lolicata replied I will try and procure them from the State. I have always had concerns about anything being put in the road regarding total liability.

Alderman Hirschmann stated but they are there for safety. People slow down when they see the cones.

Mr. Lolicata replied that is one thing, Alderman Hirschmann, don't get me wrong. There are some things they do throughout the State that are fine and dandy. All I am saying is that citywide I am against these things because all it takes is one accident and you have liability on your hands by placing something in the road. It is in the roadway. That means an island or anything man made that is put into the road that was not there before.

Alderman Hirschmann asked isn't a cone like a caution symbol for a driver.

Mr. Lolicata answered yes it is.

Alderman Hirschmann stated if the driver causes an accident, it is not our problem.

Mr. Lolicata replied but it is in the middle of a public road.

Alderman Hirschmann responded it is there for a good reason to warn people that there is a pedestrian there.

Mr. Lolicata stated all I can say is that as Director of the Traffic Department I am against these things.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to purchase four cones.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from the Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department responding to the Committee's inquiry relative to "Yield to Pedestrian" cones on Mammoth Road at the Derryfield Country Club.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to approve the pedestrian cones.

Chairman Clancy addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from Marie Spink requesting stop signs at the intersection of Blodget and Linden Streets and Smyth Road.

Alderman Hirschmann moved the item for discussion. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Lolicata stated I was there and made my observations. We have three stop signs there now and that is plenty.

Alderman Pinard asked what do you recommend Lieutenant Jaskolka.

Lt. Jaskolka answered I tend to agree with Mr. Lolicata. You already have three stop signs there. The only street that doesn't have a stop sign is Blodget.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to receive and file this item.

TABLED ITEMS

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to remove Item 8 from the table.

8. Communication from Yvonne Calimeri advising the Board of her support relative to a proposed new leash ordinance.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to put this item back on the table.

9. Communication from Thomas Lynch expressing his concerns for the lack of a "walk light" at the intersection of South Willow Street and Weston Road.
(Tabled 6/7/99)

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Clancy stated recently there was an accident at the corner of Smyth road and Belmont Street. I got a call from Ted Gatsas and he is quite concerned. I know that he is not the Alderman yet, but he would like to do something as far as putting signage up there. It is a crosswalk and a girl got killed up there Friday night.

Alderman Hirschmann asked the tree that she struck, is that right on the road. Do we want to remove the tree or do anything else up there?

Lt. Jaskolka answered the tree is past the intersection and I can tell you that traffic control would not have stopped this accident. No type of traffic control at that intersection would have prevented that accident.

Alderman Hirschmann asked was it speed and an unfamiliar area.

Lt. Jaskolka answered speed and a young driver. If we are looking at the general problem in that area, then we can work with that, but using that accident as a means for bringing in traffic control to that intersection...I can tell you right now that the accident would not have been prevented with traffic control at that intersection.

Mr. John Harmes, 240 Smyth Road, Manchester stated I was thinking would it have been possible...I certainly agree generally speaking that what you are saying would be so but if this girl knew that there was a stop sign out there would that have slowed her down enough to have saved her life. That is the question in my mind in looking at it. Generally speaking, what information I can offer as we look out our windows quite a bit is that the volume and speed of the traffic on Smyth Road has increased tremendously in the last year or two. The crossing guards, Carol and Julius, will confirm this. What I am concerned about...this is one death but after school hours when the crossing guards are not there, there is that dip in the road and you get a school child coming across the south part of Smyth Road from the school walking towards Belmont Street and not aware how fast the traffic comes with that dip in there, they could be killed. With the crossing guard at

Bruce Road and Smyth, there is no problem when they are on duty because they stop the traffic, but this has been a concern of my wife and I and our neighbors for quite some time. It is the speed and volume of the traffic. I can swear to that conclusively. That is what has increased, which makes this a dangerous area. The speed and volume. Sunday afternoon I was cleaning up glass between 1 PM and 2 PM. If there was one car that was going 60 MPH, there was half a dozen of them on a Sunday afternoon. My neighbors say pick any time of day if you want to catch people there. Keith Hanscomb down a block away said that there are two cars that race at 6 AM. I don't know anything about that.

Chairman Clancy stated we should put the radar unit up there.

Mr. Harmes stated you could put a four-way stop sign there or a signal light.

Alderman Hirschmann stated there is a school there so we could put a four-way stop sign.

Mr. Harmes stated I think I would see a lot of young drivers trying to make a traffic light there if you put that in.

Chairman Clancy asked so you would rather see a four-way stop sign.

Mr. Harmes answered yes. That would slow them down.

Mr. Lolicata stated before we go into all of this, I understand everything you are saying but let's go into the law on this before we do anything. Smyth Road is a through street. If you start putting up stop signs on a through street you will probably cause more accidents. I know that is hard to see right now, but I would like to get some warrants on that intersection. I am not saying that it won't happen, but let's look into it first. We are talking about a through street.

Chairman Clancy stated eventually we will probably end up with a petition here from all of the neighbors up there. I have some concerns myself because I do know people who live on the corner of Smyth Road and Belmont Street myself. It is warranted because there is a school right next to it.

Alderman Hirschmann stated during my freshman term I came to the Traffic Committee for Northwest School. I came in with both guns loaded and I wanted a four-way stop sign. You didn't want it, but guess what? The crossing guards over there tell me that there are no more problems at Northwest School. The whole situation has been cured. I am not the Alderman for Ward 2. I would prefer that Ted Gatsas, honestly come here to talk about this.

Mr. Lolicata stated Mr. Gatsas called me this afternoon and he stated exactly what I am stating right now. Believe it or not, he said I would be afraid to put up a four-way stop sign there because people will start going through the four-way since it is a raceway. This came out of his own mouth.

Chairman Clancy recognized Ed Ganem, the principal at Smyth Road School.

Mr. Ganem stated I just wanted to explain that we have approximately 450 students at Smyth Road School. The vast majority of them go to Bruce Road and walk down to the corner of Bruce Road and Smyth Road. Fortunately, we do have a crossing guard at the corner of Bruce Road and Smyth and the next block over at Belmont. The majority of my children who walk go to that intersection and it is very dangerous. They do speed and I certainly didn't come here to tell you people how to solve the problem, but I do know when those cars get off of Mammoth Road and go down Smyth Road they go flying down hill. It is very, very dangerous.

Mr. Lolicata stated then why don't you call the cops.

Mr. Ganem replied on occasion, the police have been there and have ticketed cars, but they don't do that consistently. You know I always allude to the fact that when I drive to Concord to bring my car to Banks Chevrolet and I go Route 3, as soon as you get to Pembroke the speed limit is 40 MPH and the cars go 40 MPH. They adhere to it. I adhere to it. I don't know what they do there, but I would think there has got to be some way, whether it meets...

Chairman Clancy responded it is just like when you go to Goffstown. It is the same thing.

Mr. Ganem stated maybe the street has to be posted more or something, but those cars just have to slow down. It is way too dangerous.

Chairman Clancy asked what would you recommend.

Mr. Ganem answered I would recommend that you put a radar police unit out there day after day after day and let the people know that you are going to get ticketed. Whether it takes one week or two weeks or three weeks.

Alderman Hirschmann asked in the mean time could you do the warrant.

Mr. Lolicata answered I am going to work with John on it anyway. I just want to make sure that when I do something it is done correctly. That is all I am saying.

Mr. Ganem stated I agree and I will be the first one to tell you that I suspect a lot of speeders there are my Smyth Road parents. Parents are big offenders. They are always late with their kids. They are speeding to get their kids to school and I would be happy to send a letter to the parents and tell them that they are going to be ticketed if, in fact, they are going to be ticketed.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that is a good starting point and if that doesn't work then we go to the stop sign.

Chairman Clancy stated so Mr. Ganem you will send out a letter to the parents and let them know what the story is.

Mr. Lolicata stated in the interim, I think I will put up two 30 x 30 slow signs down the intersection.

Some discussion took place about putting 20 MPM School Zone signs up.

Mr. Lolicata replied those are already posted.

Alderman Hirschmann requested that Alderman-Elect Gatsas be notified as to the outcome of his request.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee