

Burlington Department of Public Works Commission Meeting
Final Minutes, September 18, 2019
645 Pine Street

Commissioners Present: Tiki Archambeau (Chair); Jim Barr; Chris Gillman, Brendan Hogan (Vice Chair); Solveig Overby (arrived 6:40 p.m.); Peggy O’Neill-Vivanco

Item 1 – Call to Order – Welcome – Chair Comments

Chair Archambeau calls meeting to order at 6:35 pm and makes opening comments.

Item 2 – Agenda

Commissioner Barr made a request to remove Item 4B from the consent agenda and make it 4.1 on the deliberative agenda

Commissioner Barr made motion to accept agenda with consent item 4B being placed on the deliberative agenda as 4.1

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded

Unanimous approval

Item 3 – Public Forum

Miranda Brown – 5th grader at Champlain Elementary stated that Locust Street and Locust Terrace needs a crosswalk.

Sharon Bushor – stated that proposed bumpout at YMCA redevelopment must be carefully designed to not limit traffic circulation.

Jesse Fitzgerald – 6th grader at Edmunds stated that there needs to be crosswalk at Locust Street and Locust Terrace.

Heather Fitzgerald – agrees with her son that an intersection is needed on Locust Street and Locust Terrace.

Jason Van Driesche – supported crosswalk at Locust Street and Locust Terrace and asked for more communication.

Caryn Long stated concern about how items get on the consent agenda highlighting the Henry Street Market loading zone as an example. She also stated support for keeping traffic light at Church Street and Pearl Street.

Zipora Perry – stated support for a crosswalk at Locust Street and Locust Terrace.

Michael Long – stated concern about how the department engages residents on issues such as the Henry Street Market, traffic and paving.

Barbara White – expressed concerns about the crosswalk and traffic signals at the intersection of College Street and Battery Street.

Ali Dieng is concerned with responsiveness on departmental projects including the Maple Street and St. Paul Street intersection and traffic calming on Gosse Court.

April Howard stated support for a crosswalk at Locust Street and Locust Terrace.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

- A 242 North Winooski Avenue Parking Space
- B Colchester Avenue 15-Minutes Parking
- C Flynn Avenue Parking Removal for Crosswalk at Richardson Street
- D Update iMarket Parking Agreement to increase from 10 to 15 parkers
- E No Parking Zone on N. Avenue adjacent to Ward Street
- F Removal of one accessible (ADA) parking space at 23 Hayward Street
- G Proposed accessible (ADA) parking space on So. Union Street

Item B has been removed from Consent Agenda and is now Item 4.1

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with Item B moved to the Deliberative Agenda.

Commissioner Barr seconded

Unanimous approval

Item 4.1 – Colchester Avenue 15-Minute Parking

Staff provided an overview of the recommended changes to the on-street parking regulations adjacent to Kampus Kitchen. Commissioners Archambeau, Barr, Overby, Hogan, Gillman asked questions about the proposal and explored alternative regulations. Caryn Long asked who monitors the 15 minutes parking. Councilor Bushor stated that people who returned to Colchester Avenue after the summer break found they no longer had parking available to them. This action has disrupted people’s lives and you added more parking for Kampus Kitchen and less parking for the residents or tenants.

The Commission asked when these changes, if approved, would go in effect. Director Spencer stated that there is approximately a 30-day notice period before signs go up. The Commission discussed what level of data collection should occur once changes are made to determine whether additional changes are warranted.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept staff’s proposal of two existing 15-minute spaces in front of 291 Colchester Avenues time be altered from 6 am to 9 am & alter the 3 15-minute parking spaces located directly in front of Campus Kitchen between the house of 6 am to 9 pm to include Sundays. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco requesting traffic study on the amount of use of the two spots on Sunday.

Commissioner Archambeau	“Nay”
Commissioner Barr	“Aye”
Commissioner Gillman	“Aye”
Commissioner Hogan	“Aye”
Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco	“Aye”
Commissioner Overby	“Aye”
Commissioner Hogan	“Aye”

Item 5– Ethan Allen Parkway Parking Regulations

DPW is proposing a northbound bike lane on Ethan Allen Parkway and a southbound-shared lane from North Avenue to Farrington Parkway. There would be parking restrictions between Farrington Parkway and North Ave for the bike lane (see handout for clarifying motion language). Commissioners Gillman, Overby, Barr and O’Neill-Vivanco asked questions with Director Spencer and Senior Transportation Planner Losch responding. Cindi Wight, who is a resident of 51 James Avenue, is a bike commuter and is in support of the bike lane. Keith Wight stated that Ethan Allen Parkway is an important connector to the bike path and is in support of this.

Commissioner Hogan made a motion to accept staff’s recommendation to prohibit parking on Ethan Allen Parkway between North Avenue to Farrington Parkway.
 Commissioner Barr seconded
 Unanimous approval

Item 6– Designation of City Managed Northern Waterfront Lot & Traffic Regulations

Director Spencer explained that there was ambiguity in regards to the Commission’s action in July due to multiple staff memos with different motion language. As a result, staff is requesting the Commission clarify its direction at this meeting.

Commissioners Archambeau, Overby, Gillman comment on this item with Director Spencer, Assistant City Attorney Haesler, and Associate Engineer Peterson responding.

Commissioner Overby expressed concern that approval of the proposed ordinance language was an endorsement of 40 years of exclusive private parking arrangements for the Burlington Harbor Marina between May 15 and Oct. 15, for 42 spaces in the new 68 space Northern Waterfront parking lot. This arrangement had not been reviewed or approved by the Public Works Commission prior to the City’s signing of any MOUs with the marina developer, which is required by the Burlington City Charter.

Commissioner Overby provided the Commission a copy of the Burlington City Charter section, Article 19, Item 58 (C), which states that the Public Works Commission “shall also from time to time recommend to the City Council the acquisition or construction of municipal parking lots or garages, and the City Council shall not authorize such acquisition or construction without such recommendation, nor shall the City Council dispose of or lease to others for operation any

municipal parking lot or garage without the recommendation of the Board [Public Works Commission].”

City Attorney Richard Hessler stated that the Northern Waterfront Lot was originally intended to be managed by Parks, but due to the reasons outlined in Director Spencer’s memo, it was decided later in the process to have DPW take over the management of the lot. He stated the approval of the project’s Development Agreement included many public City Council meetings. He stated that it should be noted there is an entirely separate process for Parks to build and manage their own parking, separate and apart from the parking lots and garages managed by the Public Works Commission. The Parks Department manages multiple parking lots. Therefore, the only way for this lot to now be managed by the Public Works Commission is for the Commission to vote to accept it after the fact. Accept it after its construction. A vote to accept it for DPW management now would in essence waive those provisions of Commission review which would occur before construction and accept the lot now. Alternatively, the Commission could reject that, and the lot would then need to be managed by the Parks Department instead.

City Councilor Bushor stated it was in City Council a number of times regarding the marina and part of that was parking.

Michael Long thanks Director Spencer for explaining why DPW wants to manage. Before it was immaterial to him if it was managed by Parks or managed by Public Works. That said, he feels that parking on the waterfront should be public.

Parks Director Wight explained parking policy for their marina on the waterfront.

Caryn Long feels that this was a backwards deal and asked questions about the terms.

The Commission and staff discussed collaboration with Parks and how parking is, and could be, managed at other park and recreational areas.

Commissioner Overby made a motion that the portion of the language endorsing the exclusive parking for marina patrons be removed from the proposed ordinance language for this item, to allow the proposed public parking kiosk rates to be voted on, and that the proposed marina parking language be scheduled for review at a future Public Works Commission meeting,

Commissioner Archambeau seconded.

Commissioner Archambeau, Gillamn, Overby, O’Neill-Vivanco, Haesler and Spencer discuss.

Chair Archambeau stated that reflecting on the motion here as passed around by Commissioner Overby here and just to note it includes Item 23, seconded by me all in favor of the motion say Aye

Commissioner Overby “Aye”
Commissioner Archambeau “Aye”

Opposed: Gillman, Barr, Hogan, O’Neill

Motion does not pass

Commissioner Barr makes a motion to approve the recommendation in the packet with one small change to add “city owned/DPW managed” in Section 23 to increase clarity.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded.

Commissioner Barr, Hogan, O’Neill-Vivanco and Gillman “Aye”

Commissioner Overby and Archambeau Nay.

The motion passes.

Item 7 – Rescheduling of October meeting

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the change of October meeting to the 23rd. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded.

Unanimous approval.

Item 8 – Commissioners FY19 Annual Report

Chair Archambeau and Mr. Goulding distribute copies of the draft annual report.

Commissioner Barr makes a motion to accept the report as amended.

Commissioner Hogan seconds.

All in favor of motion say Aye.

Unanimous approval.

Item 9 – Approval of Draft Minutes from July 17, 2019

Commissioner Overby stated that on Item 9 she did not vote nay, people might have been unsure of answer as I was on phone but I stated Aye.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the minutes with the one change

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded

Unanimous approval.

Item 10 - Director’s Report

Director Spencer introduced the new City Attorney that will be working with Public Works is Tim Devlin. He highlighted other items in his written Director's Report.

11 - Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Overby stated that the pedestrian activated light that is at the end of bus terminal is a very long cycle. Regarding the stoplight at the top of Church Street, the intention is to evaluate all crossings between N. Winooski Ave. and Pearl St., and North Champlain and Pearl St. to account for one contiguous bike lane. Director Spencer stated that we have held on the implementation of that RRFB at the Church Street location given public input that we have received to date that has been significant in wanting to keep the signal there.

Commissioner Barr stated that one of the challenges in Ward 1 is the residential parking program in determining whether or not we look for residential parking only on Chase Street and potentially Barrett Street and Mill Street to help take on those spaces from Colchester Avenue that were removed. Does RPP allow for residential own parking or is it does it just talk about streets? Director Spencer the RPP plan for new RPP Requests to explore zones. Does allow staff to recommend street-by-street approach or zone approach. If approached for zone approach staff is welcome for that. We will evaluate as well to provide some kind of short-term parking on the streets and that is likely something that we will also be bringing forward.

Commissioner Hogan asked about project updates and ways to expedite project delivery. The conversation about the Locust Street desired crosswalk there is obviously a desire there but in terms of solutions and a path, forward there must be opportunities with temporary materials to make a difference in the calming and the human experience on that street.

Chair Archambeau – construction St. Paul and Maple. Intersection not done yet and people are passing judgment as if it is. Is it because they have been allowed to use that intersection? Maybe keep public away from intersections that are not yet complete.

Chair Archambeau - Locust Street talked about earlier tonight. Crosswalk has been removed. Plans were discussed for a crosswalk on block east. Chair Archambeau asked what investment it would take to have a crosswalk at the intersection of Locust St. Director Spencer explained that we are evaluating feasibility and will have a neighborhood meeting by the end of the year. We can always work on how we communicate with the public and how we are prioritizing projects. Installed at least ten new crosswalks in Burlington this year.

Chair Archambeau asked whether the loading zone in front of Memorial Auditorium could be removed and turn into parking spaces is that a feasible option? Director Spencer said it was being evaluated and he'd check on the status of that and get back to you.

Chair Archambeau inquired about sign posts on Ward Street.

Item 12 – Adjournment

Commissioner Barr has made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Gillman seconded

Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.