

Burlington Department of Public Works Commission Meeting
Final Minutes, 21 September 2016
645 Pine Street

Commissioners Present: Tiki Archambeau, Jim Barr, Chris Gillman, Solveig Overby, Justine Sears, Jeff Padgett

Commissioner Absent: Robert Alberry

Item 1 – Call to Order – Welcome – Chair Comments

Chair Padgett calls meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and makes opening comments.

Item 2 – Agenda

Commissioner Barr made motion to accept the agenda
Commissioner Archambeau seconded
Motion approved - unanimous

Item 3 – Public Forum

A resident of Mansfield Avenue is concerned about Department's recommendation to remove parking along Mansfield to ensure sight distances at mid-block crosswalk. He feels there is no need to change the status quo. Parking on west side is limited.

A Ward 1 resident agrees with the above resident. He attended the Great Street presentation last week and was concerned that it was more for the downtown area and less of an investment in the neighborhood areas.

A resident complained about the sewer odor that was coming out of the catch basins at the intersection of Pearl Street and Union Street. She also stated that she did not understand how ten thousand gallons of combined sewage and storm water can go into our lake with the facilities that we have for wastewater.

A resident from Ward 4 came in with her petition all done and copies made for the blocked road to be open at the condo development where she lives. City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated that there was now an opposing petition in process as well and he would follow up with both parties.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

- A. Traffic Request Program Status Report
- B. Parking Restriction on South Crest Drive
- C. Additional Parking on High Grove Court
- D. But Stop Removal at Pine St and Bank St
- E. Parking Restriction @ midblock crosswalk on Mansfield Ave
- F. Installing Metered Parking on Pearl Street
- G. Request to Add Loading Zone on Marble Ave

Commissioner Archambeau made a motion to pull off Marble Avenue and Mansfield Avenue items (Items E & G).

Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous Approval

Commissioner Padgett changed Item E to 4.1 and Item G to 4.2

Commissioner Barr motioned to accept
Commissioner Archambeau seconded
Passed unanimously

Item 4.1 Parking restriction @ midblock crosswalk on Mansfield Avenue – Damian Roy

There is a three way stop sign installed at Mansfield Avenue and Loomis Street which reduces parking around the mid-block crossing area. The changes in sightline around the mid-block are an improvement in which most people are in favor of this with the exception of the ones who live near the area.

Another resident stated she felt this was not about the crosswalk but parking for drop off at school at 8:00 a.m. She suggested to put in a parking restriction for school.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt no parking on the west side of Mansfield Avenue for 20 feet north and south of the midblock crosswalk at Mater Christi School.

Commissioner Archambeau made a motion to accept staff's recommendation to restrict parking 20 feet north and south of the crosswalk to increase sight lines between pedestrians and motorists increasing safety for those using the crosswalk

Commissioner Barr supports as it is used for more than Mater Christi School.
Unanimous approval

Item 4.2 Request to add loading zone on Marble Avenue – Damian Roy

Damien Roy stated there was a request for a loading zone by Battery Street Jeans on the Marble Avenue side. He went and looked at the location and made contact with the residents in the area as well as the other businesses which all vie for parking on Marble Avenue. They felt there was no use for a loading zone there as there is a vacant lot for parking for all the businesses in the area, including Battery Street Jeans. Residents are not in support of this loading zone.

Stu, owner of Battery Street Jeans stated there is a private parking area but as his business opens latter by the time they arrive the lot is usually full.

Various Commissioners asked if staff could further review the recommendation and explore a modified recommendation with some type of time-limited parking restriction.

Staff's recommendation is to maintain the current conditions of unrestricted parking on the south side of Marble Avenue from Pine Street to Hayward Street.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to table the item and have staff do additional review.
Commissioner Archambeau seconded
Unanimous approval

Item 5 Driveway Encroachment Ordinance – Damian Roy

DPW has received a number of complaints of cars parking too close to private driveways in high parking demand areas. Residents want signage or lines on the street for people to be aware of driveways in the area. DPW staff has brought forward a proposed driveway encroachment ordinance to prohibit parking within two feet of a driveway. The results of the pilot study are in the packet. Staff is seeking final approval with the ordinance change.

Burlington Police will respond to blocked driveway complaints and will remove the car if driveway is completely blocked.

Staff recommends the Commission adopt the following amendment to the Burlington Code of Ordinances Appendix C, 7 and Chapter 20-5 5 General Prohibitions:

7 No parking areas

a. No person shall park any vehicle at any time in the following locations:–

(1) (538) As Written

(2) No person shall park any vehicle at any time in front of another person’s driveway and within two feet of another person’s driveway as measured from the straight lined edge of the driveway

20-55 General Prohibitions

(a) No operator or driver of any vehicle shall stop, stand or park the same in any of the following places except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the direction of a police officer or official traffic sign or except momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger:

(1)-(3) As written

(3) In front of another person’s driveway and within two feet of another person’s driveway as measured from straight-lined edge of the driveway.

Commissioner Gillman motioned to approve staff’s recommendation to adopt the ordinance amendment above.

Commissioner Sears seconded

Unanimous approval

Item 6 – Parking Removal Starr Farm Road – Damian Roy

There is an issue of cars parking on the north side of Starr Farm Road and the Flynn School greenbelt which is eroded and against the city ordinance to park there. The roadway is too narrow for parking. The city ordinance states that lawn parking is prohibited in the city except for Ward 4. Staff has recommended restricting parking on the north and south sides from North Avenue to Grey Meadow Drive and let parking resume after Grey Meadow Drive.

There are 17 parking spaces that can be used by parents to bring kids into school but there is an empty parking lot on the north side which no cars park in. Warning tickets are being issued by the police.

Staff recommends that the Commission restrict parking on the north and south sides of Starr Farm Road from North Avenue extending west to Grey Meadow Drive.

Commissioner Archambeau moves to accept staff's recommendation to restrict parking on the north and south sides of Starr Farm Road from North Avenue extending west to Grey Meadow Drive.

Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous approval

Item 7 – Request to Modify Resident Only Parking on South Prospect Street – Damian Roy

A Resident at 308 South Prospect asked for the residential parking restriction to be modified. A petition was received by the Department indicating 85% want full time residential only parking.

Another resident noted that people are up in the area early and the parking in the streets is filled fairly quickly. Delivery vehicles have a hard time making deliveries due to lack of parking. She supports the 4 hour parking limit.

Staff recommends adopting installing full time resident parking and 4-hour parking for non-residents on South Prospect Street from Henderson Terrace to Cliff Street from 8am - 5p.m as shown on the attached drawing.

Commissioner Overby stated she cannot support expanding resident only parking to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on South Prospect Street between Henderson Terrace and Cliff Street unless 4-hour parking for non-residents is also permitted, once per day, between 8a.m. and 5p.m.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt installing full time resident parking and 4 hour parking for non-residents on South Prospect from Henderson Terrace to Cliff Street from 8a.m. to 5 p.m. as shown on the attached drawing.

Commissioner Archambeau moves to accept staff's recommendation
Commissioner Barr seconds
Commissioner Overby opposes and all others are in favor

Item 8 – Introduction to Plan BTV Walk Bike – Nicole Losch

Staff provided a presentation on Plan BTV Walk/Bike. Staff responded to questions and said they would return to the October meeting looking for Commission approval.

Item 9 – 10 Year Capital Plan – Director Spencer

Asked for this items to be considered for next month as the hour was getting late. It was mentioned that this was already passed by City Council.

Commissioner Barr motioned to table until next month.
Commissioner Archambeau seconded
Unanimous approval

Item 10 – Draft minutes of 7/20/16

Commissioner Archambeau wants the minutes to explicitly describe what action was taken by Commission. It is hard to follow if the minutes just say that the Commission voted for or against staff's recommendation. Approval of the July minutes was tabled until Clerk Gillman works with staff to revise the minutes accordingly.

Item 11 – Director's Report

There is a memo on the Commission's webpage on the water main relining.
The Commission needs to select a Diversity and Equity point person to attend training.
City Council approved on Monday Chittenden Solid Waste District 3 year MOU with a three year option to purchase 195-201 Flynn Avenue for a CSWD drop off center.
An update on the TIF-funded Great Streets effort was provided.
The North Ave Pilot continues with an online survey. 1400 responses have been received to date. People have until October 2nd to take the survey.
Staff has worked extensively with City Market, Planning & Zoning and South End neighbors to ensure the proposed South End City Market project addresses City concerns.

Item 12 – Commissioner's Communication

Commissioner Archambeau stated that there have been complaints about Grant Street and the number of vehicles idling on the street

Director Spencer stated it is being repaved and provided an update on timing. We are also coordinating work with IAA school drop off area on Archibald Street.

Commissioner Archambeau also stated that parking sign on corner of Crombie and North Winooski at Barrio Bakery may be too close to the corner.

Commissioner Gillman stated a compliment on the North Avenue pilot, glad to see it being treated as a pilot. Director Spencer stated the department removed a number of bollards between BHS and Route 127 to better accommodate emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Barr stated on Colchester Avenue between Nash Place and Mill Street there are a significant number of bumps in the road and large trucks go over them and shake adjacent houses, especially on the steeper sections between Green Mountain Cemetery and Colchester Court/Chase Street area.

Item 13 – Adjournment

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn.
Commissioner Gillman seconded
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.