City of Northampton, MA
Transportation and Parking Commission
Minutes
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Submitted by Terry Yusko
As Amended

1. Meeting called to order / announcement of audio/video recording

2. Members present and absent / introductions:

   Present and voting were Councilor Ryan O’Donnell, Chair; Alisa Klein, Councilor, Richard Cooper, Wayne Feiden, Ned Huntley, Dave Pomerantz, Debin Bruce and James Lowenthal. Also present, Terry Yusko, DPW Clerk, Nanci Forestall, Parking Office Enforcement Administrator and Alex Bublik, DPW Traffic Engineer

3. Public Comment - None

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. Approval of minutes

   December 16, 2014 – Terry Yusko took these minutes, David Pomerantz moved to approve, and seconded by Richard Cooper, Minutes were approved 5-0 with three abstentions (James Lowenthal, Wayne Feiden and Alisa Klein.)

5. Reports from Committee:
   None

6. DPW Updates

   Alex Bublik stated he was working on the paving contract for this fiscal year. James Lowenthal asked about the plans for traffic calming. Alex stated the focus right now is on the paving contract that the traffic calming are of the smaller so no contract is needed.

REQUESTS AND APPOINTMENTS

7. The Following (10) people are the recommended appointments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee:
   1. Sarah Bankert
   2. Debin Bruce
   3. Alux Bublik
4. Michael DiPasquale  
5. Wayne Feiden  
6. John Gaustad  
7. James Lownethal  
8. David Paine  
9. Michael Sullivan  
10. Ruthy Woodring  

Councilor O’Donnell moved to appoint these ten people to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. Councilor Klein seconded the motion. Vote carried 5-0 with 3 abstentions (Mr. Lownethal, Ms. Bruce, Mr. Feiden)

ORDERS, ORDINANCES, ETC.

8. Ordinance – Amend 350-2 & 350-8.11 and 350-11.6, for the purpose of making amendments relative to bicycle and pedestrian access standards in zoning and other purposes.

Mr. Lownethal moved to amend the ordinance to:

1. Strike “with one wheel on a level surface” under the definition of “Bicycle parking” in § 350-2.
2. Strike “1.0 space per classroom” and substitute “5.0 spaces per classroom” in the Table of Short-Term and Long-term Bicycle Parking Requirements in § 350-8.11.
3. Strike “and wave” under section 12 of § 350-8.11.

Director Feiden seconded the amendment.

Without objection, Mr. Lownethal added the following to his amendment:

4. Strike “0.5 per 1,000 square ft” and substitute “1.0 per 1,000 square ft” in the Table of Short-Term and Long-term Bicycle Parking Requirements in § 350-8.11.

The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Feiden moved a positive recommendation of the ordinance as amended. Councilor Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9. Continuation of discussion of crosswalk safety. James Lownethal spoke to using -Elm Street as a model for further crosswalk safety within the City. Stating raised cross walks, flashing red light, with speed notification are an excellent example. He strongly encourages that the committee be more pro-active with safety efforts.
Mr. Pomerantz moved to recognize Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra from Ward 4 and all members of the public including resident Rutherford Platt from 78 Hillcrest Drive Florence, for conversation purposes. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion.

Mr. Platt states the City needs to address pedestrian safety, stating Pleasant Street is an issue and needs to be looked at in regards to pedestrian safety.

Ward 4 Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra stated the old crosswalk and the visibility of it on Old South Street is still an issue, residents are still crossing there.

Kate Terzano of 20 Olive Street, Assistant Professor of Geography and Planning at Westfield State, spoke about her research regarding crosswalk safety in Northampton last summer focusing on pedestrian behavior. She made the recommendation to focus on compliance based on different crosswalk designs.

Debin Bruce would like to prioritize crosswalks, with noting changes needed to be made in each area. James Lowenthal recommends educating pedestrians. David Pomerantz & Debin Bruce feel that with the large amount of crosswalks within the city that they need to be prioritized by use.

Councilor O’Donnell thought the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee should discuss the crosswalk safety and bring back to the Transportation and Parking Committee any suggestions and ideas on how to move forward. Ms. Bruce moved to refer the matter to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee. Mr. Lowenthal seconded the motion. The motion to refer carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS & ADJOURN

10. Dave Pomerantz mentions update on Parking Mgt. study that was done in November, after acquiring additional data the draft should be done sometime in mid February and will be making presentations.

11. Motion made to adjourn by Alisa Klein seconded by Debin Bruce – unanimous vote to adjourn.