

Public Safety Committee
Council Chambers
May 20, 2015
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Bezanson, PE City Engineer
Councilor James Gray
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.

Minutes

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

1, Public Input

No public was present to discuss any issues or concerns.

2. Magic Avenue-Crosswalk and Speed Limit Signs

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Vasilina Bellemeur sent an e-mail and called Councilor Walker regarding a crosswalk and speed limit signs for Magic Avenue. There is elderly housing on Magic Avenue but their parking area is across the street. She is requesting a crosswalk and "speed limit" signs in the area. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to put a crosswalk at the discretion of DPW near the elderly housing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to deny "speed limit" signs on Magic Avenue. the motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

3. Penny Lane-Street Sign-Dead End or No Thru Way

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there was a street sign on a utility pole. Councilor Lachapelle asked how much money was spent on signs this year. Mr. Bezanson said he didn't know right off hand how much was spent. **Councilor Gates made a motion to place a "dead end" sign on Penny Lane at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilors Lachapelle. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

4. Right of Way Beautification

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. This was kept in committee so they could get more information regarding this request.

5. Other

Portland Street Street-lights

Councilor Gray asked if the committee could take a look at the street-lights in the area of Pinecrest and Ashwood. He stated there is one street-light several feet before Pinecrest and the other one is several feet after. This was kept in committee so they could take a look.

1 Stillwater Circle

Mr. Bezanson said Joan Erhard at 1 Stillwater Circle, the first house on the right after the bridge, is requesting a handicap sign. She said vehicles are speeding in the area. **Councilor Hamann made a motion to place "handicap" signs, one in each direction, at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.**

5 Givens Circle

Mr. Bezanson said that Pam Wildes of 5 Givens Circle is requesting a sign because there is no way out and the vehicles keep going through and turning around. **Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to place a "no outlet" sign on Anderson and Franklin Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried he motion.**

Charles Street and Granite Streets

Mr. Bezanson said that during construction there will be times when the traffic direction will be changed on Granite Street resulting in traffic exiting onto Charles Street. When making a turn onto Charles Street, large vehicles need to make a wide turn. Because of this, DPW will be utilizing temporary "no parking" signs on Charles Street to facilitate wide turns during these times.

Academy Street

Mr. Bezanson stated that "no parking" signs have been installed on the left hand side bump outs of Academy Street. An order of new signs has been placed and once received signs will be installed at the bump outs on the right side

Municipal Parking Signs

Mr. Bezanson said that the municipal parking signs are on order and when they come in they will be installed at the municipal parking lots.

May Street

Mr. Bezanson said that once the buried utility work and base pavement have been completed on May Street, it will become a one-way street. This should happen in the next month or two.

Underpass-Gonic

Councilor Collins said there is a panhandler that stands by the underpass in Gonic. When vehicles are coming North, a vehicle stopped and almost got rear ended.

Sidewalk near flat cement-Gonic

Councilor Collins said he saw some kids skate boarding and roller skating in this area. He said it's a dangerous place to do that, he said he only saw them once there, and wasn't sure if anybody else saw them.

Chesley Hill Road Status

Councilor Lachapelle asked the status on Chesley Hill Road. Mr. Bezanson said this year it would be done. Councilor Lachapelle asked if there was going to be any drainage work done on Donald Street. Mr. Bezanson said there would be some on Ramsey Drive not Donald Street.

Maple Street School

Councilor Hamann asked Deputy Chief Dumas to take a look at the striped area on Maple Street. He also said the "one-way" arrow sign across from Waldron on Maple is missing and would like it back up.

Ward 5 Meeting

Councilor Gates said he attended the Ward 5 meeting at Cocheco Estates and there was a good turnout this time around. Usually there are only a few people; this time at least 10 people were present. He said they want a traffic control light near exit of the Cocheco Estates on Route 11. He said it's hard to take a left turn to Rochester out of there. Councilor Walker said that this intersection is proposed to eventually become a signalized intersection according to the latest Route 11 Corridor Development Study. Councilor Gates said when the shopping center goes in there will be more traffic.

Councilor Gates said he encouraged the residents to be persistent in raising their concerns, including having a petition signed and sent to the State. He also stated that the North Gate Apartments have two driveways and should really be using one as an entrance and one as an exit. The haphazard traffic flow is causing a public safety concern for the residents of Coheco Estates. They were also concerned about the Coast bus stops. People are getting off the bus and need to cross Route 11. They would like the bus stop moved up the hill, so they can better see the oncoming traffic. Mr. Bezanson will send a letter to Coast requesting that they review the bus stop location.

Councilor Gray said there was a bicycle accident on Route 11 with a fatality. Councilor Walker said this was state jurisdiction.

Bump Out-Commons

Councilor Collins asked about the bump out near the Commons. Councilor Walker said that it was installed as part of the South Main Street project, which was State-funded.

Councilor Gates told Deputy Chief Dumas that Officer Murphy and Detective Rousso were at the Ward 5 meeting and they did a good job with giving information to the residents.

Councilor Gates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Lachapelle. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW