



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting – January 27, 2017

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, January 27, 2017. Jeff Wood, Chair convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeffrey Wood, Building Commissioner, Chair
Stephen Geldart Deputy Fire Chief
Michael Burks, Police Chief
Eric Ryder, Director, Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Kristina Johnson, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development
Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development

The following individuals were also present:

Jerry DeZutter
Scott Kallin, MassDOT District 3
Robert Vorbach, Architect for 10-12 Arlington Street

Site Plans

10-12 Arlington Street

Jack Hunter provided some background context as to what has occurred in the past several months since the applicant has met with the ITC Board. He noted that the Planning Department has met with the architect, Robert Vorbach to ensure that the proposed site plan for this location contains all of the requirements from the 25-point checklist in the zoning ordinance.

Kristina Johnson and Jack Hunter suggested that the architect walk through the major items in the 25-point checklist and how the revised site plan now addresses those items. Below is a summary:

- 1) **Parking-** Mr. Vorbach explained the layout of the parking spaces. To provide the 10 required parking spaces, Mr. Vorbach indicated that he spaces in the back and in to the side, leaving an open area between the two buildings.
- 2) **Pavement Materials-**Mr. Vorbach indicated that the paving will not be asphalt, but will be permeable materials (either a grass paver, or filter fabric). He noted the use of the permeable material will help mitigate the runoff from the site.
- 3) **Dumpster-** He noted the location of the dumpster, which will be placed in the northwest corner of the property. He is looking into different types of services, such as providing bins for each individual unit for curbside pick-up.

Jack Hunter raised two issues for Jeff Wood's input: is stacked parking acceptable, and whether handicap spaces need to be provided. Mr. Vorbach stated that—since they are not creating any handicap accessible units—he has strongly encouraged his client to put these units on the market as condos not as rentals. Jeff Wood stated that provided these units are marketed as condos that it would not be necessary to provide handicap parking spaces. Kristina Johnson suggested that Planning Board could condition the approval of site plan subject to the provision of handicap spaces should the units be rental and not condos. With respect to the stacked parking, Jeff Wood stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals will review that issue as a condition of the special permit.

Deputy Geldart stated that the Fire Chief is satisfied that the applicant has compliance with all fire safety measures. Mr. Vorbach followed up that the sprinkler systems will be installed in the units.

Jeff Wood moved to approve the site plan with the condition that the narrative is modified to reflect the 220 feet of snow storage and that the Planning Board entertain a condition about the provision of handicap parking should the units be converted to rentals. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Jerry DeZutter- Downtown Cycling Race

Jerry DeZutter first stated that he appeared before the ITC Board around the same time last year to gauge the Town's willingness to host a cycling race in Downtown. He provided an overview of what his organization has been doing to put plans in motion to host the race for this year. Mr. DeZutter explained that most recently he met with the Planning Department, which encouraged him to start meeting with the public safety officials and the Department of Public Works. Mr. DeZutter received information on event logistics and quotes, but he also discussed how he became aware of the complications with the Washington Street Bridge replacement project underway.

Eric Ryder expressed concerns regarding acceptable road conditions during the construction period, especially at the Washington Street/South Street intersection. Mr. Ryder also mentioned that there will be additional construction work—the re-installation of a gas main—on South Street. Timing of the gas main work is unclear and out of the Town's hands, and there is no guarantee that the utility work would be wrapped up in time for the cycling race to take place. Mr. Ryder indicated that there will be new pavement once the Bridge project and the Rotary project are complete, and that the roadway conditions would be more favorable to the cycling community participating in this race.

Scott Kallin added that the roadway at Washington and South Street could actually be gravel, and that their construction timing is subject to a lot of unknown factors. He is unable to give exact timeframes (time and day of the week) when the roadway will or will not be dug up.

Mr. DeZutter expressed his understanding the ambiguity of the construction timings, and stated that he would not want to put the participants in position of racing on precarious roadway conditions. He stated that he wanted to appear before the Board to keep the idea of for a race on the Town's radar; but now he will use this time gauge the temperature of the Hudson Business Association about holding a race downtown. Chief Burks inquired as to why the organization was set on having the race in August, to which Mr. DeZutter provided an explanation of the how the schedule for the racing circuit season is developed.

Deputy Geldart echoed the same concerns regarding roadway conditions and the Bridge construction being a significant obstacle for holding the race. Chairman Wood inquired as to approximately how many

folks attend these types of races, to which Mr. DeZutter estimated 1,000, maybe more depending on the proximity to Boston and the weather conditions.

Jack Hunter and Kristina Johnson concluded the discussion by stating that they will be in touch with Mr. DeZutter in the late spring/early summer about next steps and getting in front of the Hudson Business Association.

Christopher Capabianco- Acting U.S. Post Master for Hudson

Mr. Christopher Capabianco introduced himself and informed the ITC Board that he is a Hudson resident. He recalled a recent traffic accident that occurred on Church Street in front of the senior center, and noted that the narrowness of the roadway precluded emergency vehicles from driving all the way to the incident. Mr. Capabianco then requested if was possible to create two-hour parking on the left-hand side of Church Street that would encourage more turnover yet still accommodate the businesses on that side of the roadway.

Deputy Geldart referenced a few past incidents where fire trucks have blocked the roadway, especially when there is a medical emergency at the Senior Center. Chief Burks indicated that he has not noticed a significant blockage of Church Street. Deputy Geldart followed up that he believes that there is rapid turnover in traffic along Church Street.

Eric Ryder inquired whether if this request stems from a customer service preference of having the ability to park directly in front of the post office. He suggested that there could be value in creating up two three one-hour on-street spaces in front of the post office to improve customer convenience. Jack inquired what the time limit for that part of Church Street is, and the consensus was that there is no posted time limit. Mr. Ryder suggested that parking spaces be delineated on Church Street in front of the Post Office with the following time limit: One-hour, Monday through Friday 7:00 AM-5:00PM.

Jack Hunter inquired whether this would require the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to which Kristina Johnson said yes. She explained that the on-street spaces are delineated but that they are not signed with a time designation. An amendment to the Town's Traffic Rules and Orders would be required to create the time restriction on that portion of Church Street.

Eric suggested that perhaps two spots on each side of Church Street be designated as one-hour parking as way to facilitate turnover on Church Street. Ms. Johnson stated that ITC can take this matter up next month, and that she will provide maps (or other visual materials) for the Board to assist in their decision making.

Electric Vehicle Parking- Eric Ryder

Eric Ryder stated that he and Hudson Light and Power have met several times on the field and discovered that the previously approved spaces for the electric vehicle charging equipment would not be adequate, given the location of the charging equipment on the car. Both Eric and Hudson Light and Power thought that the two inside parking spaces adjacent to the north side of South Street within the South Street public lot behind Medusa would be better suited for the siting of this equipment. Mr. Ryder said that Medusa is supportive of having these types of spaces provided.

To offset providing electric only spaces, Eric Ryder indicated that he will close the existing curb cut at the skate park, fix the sidewalk, and then stripe two on-street parking spaces. He then inquired whether creating electric only vehicle parking would require approval from the Board of Selectmen. Kristina Johnson stated that it was her opinion that it would require an amendment to the Traffic Rules and Orders, thus requiring approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Eric Ryder moved to send along the proposal to create the above-referenced spaces for the siting of the electric vehicle charging equipment and electric vehicle parking only to the Board of Selectmen. Seconded by Deputy Geldart. 4-0-0.

Update- Giasson Street/Washington Street Intersection

Eric Ryder provided an update on Giasson Street and Washington Street, and noted that the signage (as voted by the ITC Board) has been installed. The sign installed states “right-turn, yield to pedestrians.”

Update- Main Street/Lewis Street Intersection

Eric Ryder provided an update on potential improvements at the Main Street/Lewis Street intersection. He outlined the following low-cost recommendations that he could implement:

- 1) Install slow dangerous intersection signs; and
- 2) Mr. Ryder provided some examples of other warning signs, such as solar-powered that display a vehicle’s speed.

Update- Truck Exclusion

Kristina Johnson provided an update on whether the Regional Planning Agency would be able to provide staff to complete the required engineering and planning study for a truck exclusion consideration. She noted that the Metropolitan Area Planning Council does not provide this service like other regional planning agencies as part of their local technical assistance program.

Minutes

Eric Ryder moved to approve the minutes from December 16, 2016 Second by Chief Burks, vote 4-0-0.

Adjournment

Jeff Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Chief Burks, vote 4-0-0.