



Town of Hudson

Internal Traffic Committee

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Minutes of Meeting 1-25--2019

A meeting of the Town of Hudson's Internal Traffic Committee (ITC) was held on Friday, *January 25, 2019 at Hudson Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room*. Stephen Geldart Fire Chief, convened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

The following ITC voting members were in attendance:

Jeff Wood, Chairman, Building Commissioner

Michael Burks, Police Chief

Michael Parker, Deputy Fire Chief

Eric Ryder Director of Public Works

The following non-voting ITC members were in attendance:

Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development

Kristina Johnson, AICP, Asst. Director of Planning and Community Development

Other Attendees:

Richard Braga, Administrator, Downtown Business Improvement District

Mikala Guertson, Avidia Bank

D. Frizelle Mason Jason, Downtown resident

Charles Randall, Randall Properties

Mae Zagami, Downtown Business Improvement District

Downtown Business Improvement District – 5K race logistics planning

Richard Braga, District Administrator, Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) updated the ITC Board on the BID's upcoming 2nd annual Arts Fest on May 4th. A new addition to the Artsfest will be a 5k road race to raise money for Downtown arts and culture programming. Mr. Braga indicated that he had spoken to Chief Burks regarding a proposed race course. What was presented to the ITC Board is a revised race course reflective of the conversation with Chief Burks. Mr. Braga presented the race course and the locations of the police details for race and traffic management.

Eric Ryder strongly encouraged the BID to coordinate with the DPW in advance of the race to figure out the amount of barricades (and the locations) will be need, and that the BID will need to work out the parking logistics. Mr. Braga indicated that 43 Broad Street is a potential location for event parking.

Deputy Chief Michael Parker reminded that BID that the Fire Department will still need access Downtown for any emergencies that may occur during the race.

Chief Burks moved to accept the 5k race course as presented. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0. Unanimous

Placement of parking signs on Pope Street

Kristina Johnson indicated that the Selectmen's Office has received calls from residents confused about the 2-hr parking restrictions and the overnight parking restriction, and that folks are coming into the Selectmen's Office protesting tickets for violating the 2-hr parking restriction, as they believe the location of the overnight restriction signage causes confusion as to where the parking the actual delineation of the 2-hr restriction begins and ends.

Eric Ryder moved to add a new two-hour sign at the end of the Pope Street. Seconded by Chairman Wood. 4-0-0. Unanimous

Pedestrian safety on Priest Street

Kat Vanasse, a resident of Priest Street provided the ITC Board an overview of the speeding issues occurring on Priest Street. Ms. Vanasse appeared before the ITC Board in 2018 expressing concerns about excessive speeding and cut through traffic. As a result of that meeting, the Department of Public Works installed "slow children" signs at a strategic location on Priest Street, and the Police Department conducted targeted speed enforcement. Ms. Vanasse inquired if the Town could install flashing pedestrian warning signs, to which Eric Ryder stated that there was no money in the budget to purchase these signs or to construct sidewalks. Chief Burks mentioned that the Police Department obtained a grant to purchase traffic counting equipment, which would help get a better of idea of the nature of speeding issues and the volume of traffic on Priest Street.

No vote or action was taken.

Discussion of Winter Parking Regulations

Jack Hunter and Kristina Johnson discussed the potential to have additional overnight parking spaces allocated in the South Street parking lot. They stated that with more folks living in the Downtown and with the impending residential development over the next few years, the demand for overnight parking is going to grow. The existing overnight spaces are always full, especially during the winter season when on-street overnight parking is prohibited.

Chief Burks moved to have the Board of Selectmen consider the addition of the six remaining spaces in the back of the South Street parking lot for overnight parking. Seconded by Eric Ryder. 4-0-0. Unanimous.

Other Transportation and/or Public Safety Issues

D. Frizelle Mason Jones, a resident of Downtown, expressed concerns about the newly installed raised crosswalk at the intersection of South Street and Market Street. Mr. Mason Jones noted he has witnessed vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed from Market Street into the new raised crosswalk on South Street, comprising the safety of pedestrians attempting to cross the intersection, especially those from the Darnell School. Eric Ryder and Kristina Johnson stated that they would re-examine the plans with the engineer who design the layout to ensure that the intersection is striped and signed according to the sign and striping schedule in the plans, and investigate if it were appropriate to install additional warning signs on the Market Street approach.

No vote was taken.

Adjournment

January 22, 2019

Eric Ryder moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50. Seconded by Chairman Wood. 4-0-0. Unanimous.