

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

TRAFFIC COUNCIL REPORT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2003

Present: Candace Havens (Chair) Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer) Ald. Christine Samuelson, Captain Alex Sbordone (Police) Rosalie Myers (Clerk)

Other Aldermen Present: Ald. Linsky, Mansfield, Merrill, Lennon

Also Present: Jennifer Huntington, Principal, Newton North

#388-02 BETSY & WILLIAM LEITCH, 69 Dexter Road, Newton requesting two-hour parking during school hours from 69 Dexter Road to Walnut Street. (Ward 2)

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0.

NOTE: The petitioner, William Leitch, addressed the Committee and stated that since school has started, parking problems have increased. Traffic Engineer Clint Schuckel said one issue he has noted was that people are using the south side of Dexter Road as a sidewalk. Ald. Samuelson asked Captain Sbordone if, in his view, there would be an enforcement problem if the upper part of Dexter Road has a one-hour restriction and the lower part of Dexter Road has two-hour restrictions. Captain Sbordone indicated that it is easier for parking control officers to have uniformity but said it was not absolutely necessary.

Since the restriction would impact residents as well as students, Ald. Linsky wanted to be sure that the residents would be able to comply.

Ald. Samuelson made a motion for two-hour parking on Dexter Road from Walnut Street to Bullough's Pond Road, both sides, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#257-03 AMY MACKRELL & VASILIOS VALAES, 12 Dexter Road, Newtonville, requesting to change the current one-hour parking restriction to NO PARKING, 8am - 3pm on school days, the northern end of DEXTER ROAD (#12-26 adjacent to Newton North High School) (Ward 2)

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0 (**90- DAY TRIAL**) No Parking from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the east side of Dexter Road from Hull Street to Walnut Street for a 90-day trial.

NOTE: Ms. Mackrell has noted numerous safety infractions such as making U-turns in the middle of the street, pulling in and out of driveways, as well as vandalizing cars. She briefly discussed issues regarding the street being utilized as a parking lot without permission.

Mr. Schuckel reported that on his site visit, he saw approximately seven cars parked at the Hull Street end and one parked directly in front of Ms. Mackrell's home. It did not appear that parking was occurring further down on Dexter Street. He suggested a possible option of towing which would allow some short-term parking. Newton North High School Principal Jennifer Huntington told the Committee that she was very willing to working with residents to alleviate the problems.

Elaine Lindy of 36 Dexter Road cautioned the Committee that it was important that whatever recommendations are made be consistent with the rest of the street. In her opinion, permanent restrictions should be approached conservatively. She continued to discuss that there is public benefit to being able to park and urged a slower mode to implementing a ban. Strict enforcement, in her opinion, would be helpful.

Ald. Linsky's chief concern is to give relief to the residents who are most affected. From his viewpoint, there are some other options such as towing or booting that could offer some relief.

A motion was made for a 90-day trial -- No Parking from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the East Side of Dexter Road from Hull Street to Walnut Street.

PUBLIC HEARING

#222-02 JOAN AND JOHN DRUKER requesting **RESIDENT STICKER PARKING** on FURBER LANE (Ward 6)

ACTION: HELD 4-0

NOTE: The petitioners, Joan and John Druker described Furber Lane as having serious parking problems. In their viewpoint, quality of life has diminished over the last ten years due to these parking issues. Presently, there is a Nursery School as well as a Music School operating out of the church. Both the directors of the Nursery and Music Schools spoke stressing the importance of having their schools continue at this location. Kevin O'Malley pointed out that there are only five houses on Furber Lane and they are experiencing great difficulty because of the parking issues.

In the view of Rev. David Danner of the Trinity Parish Church, Resident Sticker Parking would significantly compound neighborhood-parking problems rather than serve to alleviate them. He expressed concern that a parking change would have a detrimental effect on the ministry of Trinity Parish.

There was discussion regarding the possible use of the neighboring Greek Church for parking. Rev. David Danner indicated that there were three attempts that have not worked regarding use of parking space owned by the Greek Church.

Mr. O'Malley stressed that, in his opinion, The Preschool Experience, Inc. and the Suzuki Music School were commercial enterprises.

Mr. Searle of Furber Lane talked about the difficulty of parking on this street as sometimes there are as many 20 automobiles on this very short, narrow roadway.

The Traffic Engineer visited the location in question and found that you could park about 15 cars from Homer Street up to Commonwealth Avenue. At the site visit, Mr. Schuckel observed 11 cars parked leaving approximately 4 empty spaces and no parking within 5 ft. of driveways. He observed that the church only has two off-street parking spaces. He did note that the Greek Church parking lot was empty and looking at that from an engineering standpoint, thought that could possibly be a potential use. He explained that Resident Sticker Parking on this street might not be possible under the ordinance, as one of the properties on the street is non-residential. Candace Havens indicated that the Law Department would have to take a closer look to see if resident sticker parking would be a viable solution.

Ald. Mansfield indicated that problems arise due to the fact that Trinity Church has such limited parking and creates an untenable situation for residents in this area.

Chairman Candace Havens said that it appears all involved in this situation have, over the years, tried to reconcile these problems but finding the balance is very tricky. From her viewpoint, she would like to be sure the Council gets additional information from the Law Department as well as checking occupancy permits for the existing uses such as the Nursery and Music Schools in the church. Ald. Samuelson moved hold.

#488-02

ALD. SAMUELSON on behalf of Marie Doyle, Principal of Bigelow Middle School, requesting a no parking restriction or an extension of the bus zone in front of Bigelow Middle School on VERNON STREET.

ACTION:

APPROVED 3-0-1 (Clint Schuckel abstaining)

NOTE:

Ald. Samuelson explained that this docket item has been brought forward to alleviate problems for school buses. There was a motion by Ald. Samuelson that the Traffic Engineer look at the bus stop in front of

Bigelow Middle School and attempt to shift the bus zone to the corner to eliminate parking at the intersection of Vernon Street and Park Street.

#223-02 ALD. LENNON requesting parking restriction on MARLBORO STREET be extended from 2 hours to 4 hours. (Ward 1)

ACTION: NAN 4-0

NOTE: This item was voted NAN as the original applicants have decided that they no longer want the extension of time for this parking restriction.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION:

#341-02 ALD. LENNON requesting a discussion re truck traffic/heavy truck exclusion on CHARLESBANK ROAD, Newton Corner - Ward 1).

ACTION: HELD 4-0

NOTE: Ald. Lennon reported that Mr. Santo of Charlesbank Road contacted him regarding the issue of trucks on Charlesbank Road. Trucks that cannot make the 90-degree turn on Charlesbank Road drive into the dead end, which is St. James, and the trucks invariably get stuck. These 18 wheel trucks have to back out and go back to the Pike. In Ald. Lennon's opinion this is a public safety hazard in this area.

Mr. Santo said he had noted twelve to thirteen trucks in four days. He feels this is a terrible situation causing noise and accidents.

Dianne Gollrad, a resident of 106 Charlesbank Road for thirty years, expressed concern that more and more 18-wheel trucks are coming down the one way street and almost hitting the electrical cables. She feels this is very dangerous situation and is concerned for public safety.

Mr. Schuckel said traffic data must be collected and then submitted to the state. He concluded that he would make every effort to move this item forward.

The Committee agreed to hold the item.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosalie Myers, Clerk