



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

**City Manager's Office**

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City Manager

## **Parking Committee Minutes**

### **February 4, 2019**

7:00PM

City Council Chambers

#### **Attendees:**

Byron Champlin, Chair City Councilor  
Jim Bouley, Mayor  
Mark Coen, City Councilor  
Linda Kenison, City Councilor  
Brent Todd, City Councilor

#### **Staff:**

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects-  
Dan Andrus, Fire Chief  
Rob Mack, Traffic Engineer  
Amanda Lombard Fiscal Clerk Parking Division  
David Florence Parking Division Supervisor

The meeting began at 7:03PM.

1. **Over View of Agenda:** Councilor Champlin provided an overview of the meeting agenda and the Narrow Streets Project.
2. **History of Concord:** Councilor Coen talked about the history of Concord New Hampshire and the surrounding streets. The Councilor explained that most of Concord's streets predated the invention of the automobile. Therefore, they were not designed to accommodate vehicular traffic and parking.
3. **Narrow Streets:**
  - a) Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects exhibited a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Narrow Streets Project and specific roadways within the Zone 2 study area. Zone 2 is roughly the area bounded by Centre Street (north), Storrs Street (east), Pleasant Street (south), and Liberty Street (west). The

presentation also included a review of why municipalities manage public parking, as well as the challenges associated with narrow streets.

Zone 2 has approximately 14 narrow streets of concern, which the City is currently reviewing. The following is a summary of these streets and public input received during the Neighborhood Forum.

1. **Blake Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking or permanently
- ii. A resident stated people speed down the street, there are no sidewalks, as well as no grass panels between the road and sidewalk. She has witnessed motorists exit their vehicles in order to fold in mirrors on parked cars just to get down the road. She has also witnessed City plows turn back because they cannot navigate the road when vehicles are parked. The street is just too small and tight. The resident supported removal of on-street parking.

2. **Hanover Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

3. **Huntington Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking both sides of road.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

4. **Kennedy Lane:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking on West side.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

5. **Liberty Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking one side of road.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

6. **Merrimack Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking on one side of the road.
- ii. Public Input:
  - a. A resident expressed concerned that if the City were to make one side of the road no parking then the traffic and speeds will increase. He would like to see this road converted to one way. The resident noted that Merrimack Street tends to be a cut through street for the State Office Park on Pleasant Street and

suggested that the City should review timing of traffic lights to encourage use of main roads. He suggested that this may increase the flow of traffic on major streets and help people to get to work faster, thus discouraging the use of Merrimack Street as a short cut.

- b. A resident would like to keep parking on both sides of road, she has a driveway but prefers to park on the road as it is more convenient.
- c. A resident stated that she would not want the City to remove on-street parking, as she is concerned about sufficient parking supply in the neighborhood. People need to utilize there off street parking better.
- d. A resident stated she is concerned that removal of on-street parking will increase traffic speeds.

7. **Orchard Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the north side of the road.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

8. **Pine Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking on one side of the road. Alternatively, Pine Street might be a good candidate for a winter parking ban.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

9. **School Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking on the north side of the road.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

10. **Short Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Remove on-street parking.
- ii. Public Input:
  - a. A resident suggested on street parking on the easterly end of the road.
  - b. A resident would like to see a winter parking ban for the south side of the road.

11. **Summit Street:** (Tahanto to Curve)

- i. Potential Recommendation: Convert to one-way west bound.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

12. **Summit Street:** (Curve to School)

- i. Potential Recommendation: Eliminate on-street parking.
- ii. Public Input:

- a. A resident stated that it is difficult to get into School Street side due to snow piles. Sometimes one person has to back out of the street so the other person may pass.
- b. Another resident suggested rather than convert to 1-way maybe put up signs that say no through traffic.
- c. It was also noted that properties with frontage on both Merrimack and Summit rely on Summit Street for parking due to topographical issues with their Merrimack Street frontages (steep slopes)

13. **West Washington Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Eliminate on-street parking.
- ii. No public testimony was received.

14. **Warren Street:**

- i. Potential Recommendation: Eliminate on-street parking.
- ii. Public Input:
  - a. The Mayor stated his goal would be to implement the minimal changes needed in order to reduce impacts on residents.
  - b. A resident suggested converting Warren Street to one-way, as well as eliminating parking during winter months.
  - c. A resident agreed with the 1-way parking and suggested that parking be on the east side of the road.
  - d. A resident stated there is an area that can fit two vehicles but someone on the street repeatedly parks in the middle so no one else can fit there. He would like to have the parking spots painted to try to prevent double parking. Staff will look into the spot described in the spring and decide if it is two parking spots and whether they will paint parking lines.
  - e. A resident would like to reiterate that people speed down this street and it is unsafe. She would like to see more parking spaces designated by pavement markings on the street.
  - f. A resident noted that on-street parking is heavily utilized by staff at the Christa McAuliffe Elementary School and questioned where they would park if on-street parking was removed.
  - g. A resident stated he wished we did not increase the parking time limits and suggested that the City revert to previous time limits.

**4. Additional Discussion:**

- a) A resident of North Spring Street stated that she previously had a difficult time exiting her driveway until the City changed to 2 hour parking and painted outlined parking spots. She thanked the City for these changes.
  - b) Some individuals expressed concern that removing parking on some streets may increase demand for parking on others.
  - c) Residents expressed frustrations about certain land lords who lease to multiple tenants or roommates but lack sufficient parking for said dwelling units or tenants.
  - d) A resident suggested that signage for 20 minute parking in front of Library and Police Station on Green Street should be updated and revised so that it consistent with the hours of operation of both facilities. He would also like to see Parking Enforcement Officers work 7 days a week.
  - e) A resident feels that we should have conversations with State offices and the Schools about parking. She expressed that she does not want parking to go away, and also wondered whether Concord High School teachers could park at the School parking lot and maybe students could utilize the Memorial Field parking lot.
  - f) A resident expressed that the consolidation of the elementary schools and construction of the Christa McAuliffe School has negatively impacted neighborhood parking.
  - g) A resident inquired as to when the City revised its Ordinances to permit on-street overnight parking. The Mayor responded about 11 years ago. A discussion ensued as to why parking on narrow streets, and overnight parking on some streets, have become concerns. Mr. Walsh stated that complaints and concerns about narrow streets have steadily increased in recent years. Mayor Bouley provided a recap of recent changes in the neighborhood, as well as developments downtown, which have affected parking in this neighborhood and contributed to narrow streets concerns.
- 5. Adjourned:** A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Lombard  
Parking Division Fiscal Tech III