

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2016**

A City Council/Public Safety Committee meeting was held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:00P.M.in the City Council office, Room 204, City Hall.

Committee Members present: Committee Chairperson Michael McGonagle, Councillor Melinda Barrett and Councillor Mary Ellen Daly O'Brien. President Michitson, Councillor Vargas, Bevilacqua, LePage, Macek and Sullivan also attended.

Department Heads: David Van Dam-Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief Anthony Haugh-Haverhill Police, Linda Koutoulas-City Clerk, John Pettis-City Engineer and Joe Johnson-GPI Traffic Consultant

Attendees: Ron MacLeod, Patrica Barrett-MacLeod, Roger LeMire, Melissa Seavey, Russell Chaput, Bob DesMarais, Douglas Riva, Richard Bilodeau, Mike Katsulis, Joseph LeBlanc

The following items were discussed:

1. **Document #6-Z** – Communication from President Michitson requesting to introduce Ron MacLeod to discuss traffic & safety concerns and associated public safety resources; and **Document 82-W** – Communication from Councillors Daly O'Brien and President Michitson requesting to introduce Ron MacLeod to discuss traffic safety issues on streets of the North Avenue neighborhood.

Discussion was held regarding speed limits, traffic and safety concerns including a redesign of the North Ave., Marsh Ave. intersection. City Engineer John Pettis spoke about the design process for the area and introduced the new consultant, Joe Johnson of GPI, to speak on progress and timeline. Residents and City Council members expressed concern about the original design of a rotary being considered for the area. John Pettis is also looking into the TIF project redesign, which should be updated in late October. John will also monitor the municipal modernization bill that may allow us to have more control over setting speed limits.

Action Items:

- A motion was made and passed to recommend the Council to send a letter to the Mayor requesting a study be conducted to eliminate heavy truck traffic from using North Ave as a cut through.
- A recommendation for the full Council to send a letter the Mayor to request that John Pettis re-evaluate adding stop signs on North Ave around or near Concord Street to slow the speed of traffic.

2. **Document 61-W** – Communication from Councillor Macek requesting to introduce Roger LeMire to discuss limited access to downtown for residents during major downtown events and to present an alternative plan.

Discussion was held regarding improving residential access during downtown events. Roger LeMire spoke to the frustration to being a resident of Phoenix Row and not being able to have egress to his parking lot during downtown events. After a lengthy discussion including Chamber of Commerce representative Melissa Seavey and Deputy Chief Haugh, Roger LeMire and Council members, a decision was made to try to allow for all day access to the Phoenix Row parking lot via the ramp leading to the Garibaldi Club and 70 Washington Street.

Action Item:

- Recommendation to send a letter from the Council to the Chamber of Commerce to coordinate along with the Police Department an action plan that allows access to Phoenix Row parking lot during their Christmas Stroll Downtown event.

3. **Document 31-S** – Petition from Russell Chaput requesting Tag Day rules relating to soliciting on a public way be changed from 1 day to 3 days

Discussion was held to consider adding new locations for non-profits to collect donations on City streets. Petitioner Russell Chaput requested consideration of new areas to fundraise. Deputy Chief Tony Haugh expressed the concern from a public safety standpoint on allowing any agencies to utilize public roadways for fundraising. Deputy Chief Haugh also asked that any groups of fund –

raising wear fluorescent vests to increase visibility. After a lengthily discussion there were no recommendations to expand any new locations.

4. **Document 82-U** – Communication from Councillor Bevilacqua requesting discussion regarding street closing notifications.

During the discussion Deputy Chief Haugh stated that a weekly meeting is held to discuss all projects that may shut down all public ways. The use of Robo calls or electronic road signs could be used for public notification.

Action Item:

- Send a letter from the full Council to the Mayor asking that a notification process be developed to give proper notice 48 to 72 hours in advance to businesses being affected by street closing and detours.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McGonagle, Chairperson
Public Safety Committee

September 20, 2016