

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
October 20, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Marvin Howard, Tom Parkins

Absent: Carol Houck
Dave Gula

Guests: Ben Capon
Eric Capandrea
Mike Fortner, Bicycle Committee

1. REQUEST TO REMOVE A PARKING SPACE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE DRIVEWAY AT 43 N. CHAPEL STREET.

Ben Capon lives at 43 N. Chapel Street and his neighbor Eric Capandrea that lives next door at 45 N. Chapel Street share a driveway. Mr. Capon presented pictures showing various angles to the line of sight issue when pulling out of their driveway.

Mr. Capandrea said pulling out of their driveway, there is no visibility to see oncoming traffic on N. Chapel Street with the parked vehicles along the roadway. Mr. Capon said he drives an SUV and the only way for him to see oncoming traffic is to look through the windows of the parked vehicles. Mr. Capon said the majority of residents and guests pulling out of their driveway onto N. Chapel Street are in passenger cars and have no visibility to see oncoming traffic. Mr. Capandrea said the narrow roadway makes this task more difficult and dangerous when pulling out, that motorists heading toward Main Street are increasing the odds of a collision, as the double yellow line must be crossed in order to complete the right turn. Mr. Capandrea said there is a high volume of traffic on N. Chapel Street especially during rush hour.

Mr. Capon said the parking that is utilized on N. Chapel Street typically is not utilized by the residents that live there, but rather employees or customers that frequent the businesses on Main Street.

Mr. Capandrea said all residents that live at 43, 45, 47 and 49 N. Chapel Street all share the same driveway, which equates to approximately 20 vehicles. Tom Parkins asked how many parking spaces would need to be removed in order to improve the line of sight issue. Mr. Capon said one parking space at the very minimum, however strongly suggested the removal of all the parking spaces in front of 41, 43, 45, 47 and 49 N. Chapel Street.

Tom Parkins asked if there are standards in the city for parking next to driveways. Rich Lapointe said there no standards for parking next to driveways in the downtown area. Tom Parkins inquired into the impact or downside of removing a parking space. Marvin Howard said they are parking here because there is no place else to park that is free. Marvin Howard said any parking that is taken away is going to have an impact and that most days the parking lots have reached their maximum.

Chief Tiernan requested that this item be tabled for one month to allow Lt. Stanko to perform the accident history and for Marvin Howard to review the impact of removing the parking spaces.

MOTION BY MARVIN HOWARD, SECONDED BY LT. STANKO TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL NEXT MONTH AT WHICH TIME THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE ACCIDENT HISTORY AND THE IMPACT OF ELIMINATING PARKING SPACES.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

S. College Avenue Pedestrian Bridge

Chief Tiernan said a letter was previously sent to the Delaware Department of Transportation requesting the widening of the bicycle lane the removal of signs prohibiting bicyclists from using the pedestrian bridge.

The Delaware Department of Transportation said they are in favor of widening the bicycle lanes, however funds are not available in their FY10 budget. DelDot also said they did not approve of the removal of their signs prohibiting bicyclists from using the pedestrian bridge and the installation of new signs stating "Bicyclists Must Yield to Pedestrians".

Chief Tiernan said M/Cpl. Davis researched this issue and found a letter dated 1991 confirming that the City purchased the signs prohibiting bicyclists from using the pedestrian bridge.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bicycle Committee

Mike Fortner introduced himself as the Bicycle Committee Administrator and informed the Traffic Committee members that the Bicycle Committee is a sub-committee of the Traffic Committee. Mr. Fortner said Jeff Ringer is the Bicycle Committee Chairman. The committee currently meets the second Thursday of every month at the WILMAPCO office.

Mr. Fortner said the Bicycle Committee was very active in the early part of the decade and helped with the Pomeroy Trail and the James Hall Trail. At the conclusion of these projects, the committee disbanded and recently has reconvened. The committee's main task will be to update and develop a comprehensive Newark Bicycle Plan to be presented to the Traffic Committee for review and approval prior to presenting to Council. The areas of study will be as follows:

- 1) Infrastructure
- 2) Parking
- 3) Education
- 4) Encouragement
- 5) Enforcement

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY TOM PARKINS, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman