

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
November 17, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Carol Houck
Marvin Howard

Guests: Ben Capon

1. REVIEW ACCIDENT HISTORY AND PARKING IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST TO REMOVE PARKING SPACES ON N. CHAPEL STREET.

Lt. Stanko said the results of the accident history determined from 2007 to the present there have been three reported collisions on N. Chapel Street. Two accidents occurred at 33 N. Chapel Street and one accident occurred at 43 N. Chapel Street.

Chief Tiernan said in the past, the Traffic Committee reviewed a request from the owner of Santa Fe Restaurant through Maureen Feeney-Roser to install meters on N. Chapel Street at which time the request was turned down. Chief Tiernan said Maureen Feeney-Roser in the future might request for the Traffic Committee to revisit a request for parking meters on N. Chapel Street.

Chief Tiernan said based on the accident history that reflects a scarcity of accidents recommended not eliminating any parking spaces and suggested the consideration of parking meters in the future.

Lt. Stanko said many of the houses share a common backyard and recommended using the driveway at 43 N. Chapel Street as an entrance and the driveway farthest north near New Street as an exit. Lt. Stanko said all the residents would need to cooperatively organize the parking situation first in order for this to effectively work. Ben Capon said he did not feel this would work for the reasons that there is not enough parking and too many vehicles. Lt. Stanko said vehicles parked along the roadway are a form of traffic calming and by eliminating parking spaces would increase speeds.

Rich Lapointe said he spoke with Marvin Howard and he was in favor of removing parking spaces.

Dave Gula said one option to increasing the sight lines would be to condense two parking spaces down to one space by painting the curb yellow to not allow parking near the driveways. Rich Lapointe said there is one parking space in front of 41 N. Chapel Street and four parking spaces in front of 43 and 45 N. Chapel Street. Rich Lapointe said he pulled out of the driveway at 43 N. Chapel and felt it was dangerous and very difficult to see oncoming traffic.

Tom Parkins said a one-way entrance and one-way exit is a good idea, however it would be difficult to ensure that the tenants follow a parking arrangement from year-to-year.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO ELIMINATE TWO PARKING SPACES; ONE PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 41 N. CHAPEL AND ONE PARKING SPACE IN FRONT OF 43 N. CHAPEL AND IF AN ADEQUATE LINE OF SIGHT IS NOT OBTAINED AN ADDITIONAL TWO PARKING SPACES MAY BE ELIMINATED.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 3 TO 2.

2. REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK ON W. MAIN STREET AT OLD OAK ROAD OR CORBIT STREET.

Mr. Billingsley said a copy of Gov. Markell's Executive Order No. 6 has been provided to the members for their review.

Mr. Billingsley said there is no crosswalk between Casho Mill Road and Cleveland Avenue and is concerned for pedestrian safety. Mr. Billingsley said the sidewalk terminates on the north side of the road at the Presbyterian Church forcing pedestrians to cross at this location. Mr. Billingsley said a crosswalk located within a 25 mph zone is legal and is within DelDOT's parameters.

Rich Lapointe suggested sending another letter to DelDOT specifically referencing DelDOT's existing policy of allowing crosswalks within 25 mph zones. Dave Gula suggested Mr. Billingsley contact his state representative for additional support.

Mr. Billingsley said the Delaware Association for the Blind for which he is a member, is going to send a letter to Gov. Markell with the hopes to urge further action on the need for a crosswalk.

MOTION BY GEORGE STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE, TO SEND A SECOND LETTER TO DELDOT FOR THE REQUEST OF A CROSSWALK ON W. MAIN STREET AT CORBIT STREET OR OLD OAK ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

Tom Parkins said in DeIDOT's response letter they quoted "a chance for non-compliance at an unexpected crossing is increased." Tom Parkins said in writing the letter to DeIDOT it is important to point out that a number of "midblock" crossings already exist in Newark therefore, it is not necessarily unexpected to have this in Newark. Lt. Stanko said Corbit Street is a natural crossing point as many pedestrians cross at this location.

Mr. Billingsley said has requested an accessible pedestrian signal at the corner of Amstel Avenue and Elkton Road. Mr. Billingsley said at his request, DeIDOT has already installed an APS at Apple Road and Elkton Road and the corner of S. College Avenue and Park Place. Mr. Billingsley said the request must originate from a blind person and would be happy to be the contact for additional APS requests. Lt. Stanko asked Mr. Billingsley to request an APS at Main Street and N. and S. College Avenue.

3. REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK AT ELKTON ROAD AND BEVERLY ROAD.

Chief Tiernan said this request was received from a resident.

Lt. Stanko said in June he attended a walkthrough with DeIDOT to discuss the Elkton Road project. Lt. Stanko said a midblock crossing was requested at this location and at the parking garage. Rich Lapointe said DeIDOT denied the request for a crosswalk at Beverly Road and Elkton Road. However, DeIDOT approved the crosswalk at Elkton Road and Amstel Avenue.

Rich Lapointe said he would contact Shante Hastings with DeIDOT to make mention that an additional request was received for a crosswalk on Elkton Road at Beverly Road.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY GEORGE STANKO, TO CONTACT DELDOT WITH AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK ON ELKTON ROAD AT BEVERLY ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

4. REQUEST FOR A "NO U-TURN" SIGN ON ELKTON ROAD AT AMSTEL AVENUE.

Chief Tiernan said many motorists are making u-turns on Elkton Road to get to Buffalo Wild Wings. Lt. Stanko said the road is too narrow to complete a u-turn and motorists are forced to back up and is very dangerous. Dave Gula said there is heavy pedestrian volume at this location and agreed it was extremely dangerous.

MOTION BY GEORGE STANKO, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM DELDOT TO INSTALL A "NO U-TURN" SIGN ON ELKTON ROAD AT BEVERLY ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY TOM PARKINS, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 0.

Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman