

CITY OF BEVERLY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

BOARD: Parking and Traffic Commission
SUBCOMMITTEE:
DATE: June 1, 2021
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Benevento (Chair), Darlene Wynne (Vice Chair), George Binns, Michael Collins, Capt. Ryan Laracy, Jonathan Salt, Sgt Michael Henebury
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Leslie Gould, John Lozada
OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Alexander, Peter Harkins
RECORDER: Sharlyne Woodbury

Benevento chairs and opens the meeting at 8:33 am.

This is a virtual meeting with special meeting format as required to honor Governor Baker's State of Emergency declared due to the national crisis of COVID-19.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes not available. Tabled to the next meeting.

Binns moves to table the minutes to the next meeting. Salt seconds. The motion carries 7-0.

2. Discussion and Request to Modify Condition: Post Construction Traffic Study – Site Plan Review #113 -14, special permit #139-14 – 140 Brimbal Avenue – North Shore Crossing – CEA Beverly LLC

Tom Alexander represents the applicant and discusses the traffic study with the commissioners. Alexander is requesting the applicant only conduct one study as opposed to two studies. Due to covid the scheduled first post traffic study was not conducted as a result of travel restrictions and government mandates. Benevento advised to conduct the study during school time not during summer. Wynne informs the commission of the current school schedule with covid restrictions lifted. Benevento advises to include a Saturday schedule in addition to a week day schedule since the original project proposal did not include two roundabouts. Wynne advises any modification to the condition requires the Planning Board approval since this was a contentious part of the project. Wynne would prefer to see the request after the commission views the first post traffic study. Salt asks for clarification on study 1 and 2. Benevento provides the information for the traffic study requirements. Due to covid the studies were not conducted as the data would have been inadequate. Alexander suggests the commission review only one report and if they need additional information they can request it. Wynne and Benevento are both firm on the project condition and requirements. Benevento advises Alexander convey to his client the Commission will not tolerate continued push back on the studies. Benevento requests a scope of services for the traffic study in the fall. Based on the scope of services the commission will then determine if that is appropriate for the study to move forward in the fall. Commissioners are very clear to the applicant of the condition requirements and expectations.

Binns moves to table the vote until July meeting pending the scope of conditions provided by the applicant. Henebury seconds. The motion carries 7-0.

3. Post Construction Parking Utilization Report 110 -114 Rantoul Street – Holmes Beverly

Wynne reviews the parking situation. This is a first time where the parking was uncoupled with a project. Benevento inquires of Henebury if there have been any complaints for inadequate parking in the area. Henebury said they do receive frequent calls for the Pleasant Street area. The Barnett property does not seem to have specific issues, nor does the garage itself. Wynne confirms this is a one-time study. Salt has a request for information. It's been brought to his attention the bike rack use is maxed out by the building. Salt would like some data from the study and the building for bike parking that would assist in creating a bike parking ordinance.

There being no further comments or questions. No additional actions at this time.

4. Discussion: Parking changes related to Planning Board Special Permit #171-19 – 31 Park Street – Back Beat Brewery LLC

Peter Harkins introduces himself to the commission and goes over the current parking situation. Harkin has a parking space of net one. Although foot traffic increased, he has not lost any parking. Per governor's mandates, and in order to maintain his business and customers; Harkin changed to a full menu. Benevento reviews the parking requirements as it pertains to the permit. The Chair educates Harkin on the commissions purview and how stringently they follow the requirements set forth by the permits allotted in the areas where business is conducted and as it pertains to the business. Wynne advises the business go thru the same application process for emergency application of outside dining. Any offsite parking arrangements must be reviewed by the commission. The applicant should demonstrate annual reports for parking utilization. Benevento asked if a food truck is part of the permit provisions. Harkin confirms the provisions are there, but they have not used nor needed the food truck. Harkin confirms his parking lease agreements are current and in place. Wynne points out the zoning standards for parking lots may not actually work out as the applicant currently utilizes the space. He may have found a work around, but he must make sure he's in compliance of the zoning permit.

Commissioners have additional comments. Henebury looks for clarification on the net parking space. There has been a lot of flexibility and changes adapted by the city to accommodate the covid restrictions. Going forward Henebury does not have an issue with the parking. Laracy does not have any concerns regarding the parking. Binns believes the issues are more of a zoning and permitting issue as opposed to a parking issue. Collins advises not to encroach on the sidewalk.

Benevento advises to be compliant with his permit, that safety is paramount, and to ensure quantity of parking is adequate. The commission advises to work with the planning board and update permit requirements.

There being no further comments or questions. No additional actions at this time.

- 5. New/Other Business:**
- a. Goat Hill parking complaints

Henebury informs the commission he is starting to receive an increase complaint for the Goat Hill area due to recent construction and traffic surges. Henebury advises there have been long standing issues with the area and requests the commission consider permanent solutions to all concerned parties. Wynne notes a parking study is due for the area. Henebury states complaints are consistent regardless of week day or weekend. Collins discusses the area, specifically noting the marina construction. Most recreational boaters are frustrated they cannot park at the marina. Local residents increased complaints about parking in front of their residences. Salt comments the restaurant construction adds to the loss of parking. The Cedna apartment property took up additional parking. Wynne confirms there is only 5 public parking spots from the Cedna apartments.

b. BBC follow up

Benevento asks for feedback from the BBC joint meeting. Salt confirms the BBC is excited to coordinate with the commission. They are anxious to move on some of the discussed initiatives. Wynne commented they cannot move on any of the initiatives until the fall. Wynne confirms the mayor is enthusiastic on a bike parking ordinance and studies for bike usage. Salt confirms this is productive all around.

c. Public meeting links and agenda availability

Salt asks if the meeting link can be sent in an email, that the hot link should be able to view in the calendar invite. Wynne goes over the link and where to find it. Salt comments that the public should not have to search around for the link in order to join meetings. Wynne and Collins confirm the links have been an issue for all boards and commissions throughout covid. Salt is concerned the public should not be kept out of meetings because it has been difficult to locate. He acknowledges this is a broader problem.

Salt has some concerns about Depot II and asks when they are next scheduled to appear for the final plan. Wynne comments the final plan was already approved. Right now, they have a temporary construction plan. Benevento inquires when expected opening date for Mission Boathouse is, Wynne responds either fall or spring of 2022. Collins comments on the increased commodity pricing for construction materials.

There being no further comments or questions. No additional actions at this time.

6. Adjournment

Binns moves to adjourn. Salt seconds. The motion carries 7-0. Meeting adjourned 9:40 am.

Next meeting scheduled for 7.6.21.