

CITY OF BEVERLY

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

BOARD: Parking and Traffic Commission
SUBCOMMITTEE:
DATE: September 14, 2021
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Benevento (Chair), Darlene Wynne (Vice Chair), Michael Collins, Jonathan Salt, Sgt Michael Henebury, Capt Ryan Laracy
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: George Binns, John Lozada, Leslie Gould
OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Devlin, Dan Brosnan, Josh Hepnan
RECORDER: Sharlyne Woodbury

Benevento chairs and opens the meeting at 8:32 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

Henebury moves to approve August 3, 2021 minutes as amended. Salt seconds. The motion carries 6-0.

2. Recommendation to Planning Board: Site Plan Review #152-21- construct new buildings and improve parking area - Long Hill 572R Essex St – Elizabeth Keary Soule for the Trustees of Reservations

Josh Hepnan stands in for Keary-Soule. Hepnan reviews the site plan with focus on the farmhouse renovations and improved parking area. The current parking spaces are 20 with post construction increase to 40 spaces. They created an extended drive with created a one way exit and entry. They will include ADA parking. Overall the improved site will allow for special events, classroom excursions, public access and participation. This is a pay for use site, membership based. Wynne discloses she is a direct abutter and prefers not to vote on the agenda item. Henebury brings attention to the summer school/camp projects keeping in mind the turning radius for buses and special private events that may require overflow parking. Hepnan confirms the project timeline for fall 2022.

Benevento inquires about employee parking. Hepnan replies there are about six daily employees. Additional parking can be accommodated in the future if necessary with the land available. Salt recommends to forward APBJ requirements to Hepnan to detail the appropriate bike racks per the facility design.

Collins call line drops off the meeting 8:50 am.

Henebury moves to make a recommendation to the planning board to approve the site plan with the following conditions: all new roadway and circulations will accommodate bus turning, the applicant will work with the BBC to ensure proper bike rack equipment is employed. Salt seconds. The motion carries 4-0-0. Wynne abstains, Collins call dropped.

Collins call line rejoins the meeting 9:05 am.

3. Discussion: Developing a zoning ordinance amendment to Article X Parking and Loading Requirements Section 300-59 Off Street Parking Requirements to add a new sub section F, Bicycle Parking Facilities and a new sub section G. Transportation Demand Management – no language has been formally filed.

Review parking standards for recommendations provided by the BBC NABP parking guidelines. Wynne confirms this is a zoning ordinance amendment. Wynne reviews the processes involved for the amendment. Members discuss the resources available for consideration and review.

There are 3 options for consideration. Wynne and the commissioners debate the scenarios as appropriate to the standards and bike ordinance. They discuss ADPD requirements, numbers of cars recommended per building, trends, etc. Commissioners review current parking trends compared to inner city inhabitation and living requirements. Urban settings are decreasing their parking requirements for a variety of reasons as climate resiliency and a younger generation preferring public transportation, biking and other modes over owning personal vehicles. Benevento notes the number of cars recommended per building is decreasing. Salt suggests with those numbers the required bike parking increase per building. Salt notes from a bike perspective security is important. There are local, regional, national examples to take direction from. Commissioners discuss the review process, approval process, and incorporation process.

Brosnan of the BBC provides prospective on the suggested options. Members and Brosnan collectively agree the first option appears to be the best at this point in time. Members review number of spaces for types of facilities and requirements. Benevento cautions to not make the ordinance so restrictive it's difficult to achieve. Members discuss other communities to review and compare with. Salt suggests reviewing Salem. Members discuss ride share options.

There being no additional discussion points; no further action at this time.

4. General/Other Business

Members review and discuss the bottleneck parking and traffic at Pleasant and Hardy Streets. Henebury provides the history on the area. Two councilors wanted to reduce the parking in order to mitigate the bottleneck in the area. Benevento, Wynne and Henebury discuss.

Leslie Gould resigned from her post. The mayor plans to appoint an individual from the Chamber of Commerce as a temporary replacement. The position will go through formal appoint in another year when Gould's position officially expires.

5. Adjournment

Wynne moves to adjourn. Henebury seconds. The motion carries 5-0.
Meeting adjourned 9:26 am.

Next meeting scheduled for 10.5.21.