

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Joseph Pace convened the Board on the above date at 7:02PM. Also present: Paul Binette, Robert Eastman, William Campbell, Lionel Ingram and Town Manager George Olson.

Chairman Pace read a statement which, in part, reads: The Board of Selectmen appreciates the effort of the Exeter Newsletter to inform and education the citizens of the Town of Exeter. A lack of thorough research into the facts prior to the publication of their editorial of October 18<sup>th</sup> jeopardizes that valuable effort and resulted in some inaccuracies pertaining to the salt shed issue. The Board is continuing to acquire information regarding the issue and will make a public statement when appropriate.

2. Minutes of Board of Selectmen's meeting of October 7, 2002.

*Mr. Ingram moved to accept the minutes as submitted; second by Mr. Binette. VOTE: Unanimous.*

3. Third & final reading of amendments to Town ordinances re hunting & wheel vehicles on conservation land.

Per the Board's request, Mr. Olson has asked the Town Planner, as part of the Technical Review Process associated with relevant parcels, to note the location of Town-owned lands on which hunting is permitted. He also had requested the Police Department prepare a hand-out explaining the do's and don'ts of hunting in Exeter. They have provided some information to be used in preparing an information packet for residents living in the proximity of the areas addressed. Mr. Eastman asked if there were any other areas affected by ordinances regarding discharge of firearms? Mr. Olson noted there is limitation on hunting per NH RSA's.

*Mr. Eastman moved to accept the amendment to 705.3 of the Town's Ordinances as read; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous. (attached)*

4. Discussion of petition for 2-hour parking on Front Street.

The Town Manager has prepared wording for an amendment to the Town's ordinance following discussion of the last meeting. Chairman Pace read as follows: Amend 103.2 – Two-Hour Parking Limit - School Hours to add "Front Street: North side from Lincoln Street to Tan Lane; south side from Pine Street to Elliott Street". Mr. Ingram asked if this is consistent with language for areas on Front Street west of Pine Street? Yes, all are 2-hour when not otherwise restricted.

Ally Moore, a student of Exeter High School addressed the Board concerning the proposed parking amendment and how it affects EHS students (see attached statement and first page of a petition), stressing the traffic, congestion and safety issues will still be present even with the two-hour parking limit.

Virginia Cori, stated the neighbors realize there is a problem at EHS but it's not for the residents and property owners to fix but is a school issue. She agreed with Mr. Binette's suggestion of the last meeting that the school should create a lot on property at Court Street & Gary Lane, as they already own the property and space is available. She also noted the neighbors were not targeting just the

students but, primarily, the construction workers on the many PEA projects, stating the larger trucks they drive pose an even greater problem for residents exiting their driveways with the blockage of sight.

Patrick Fleming, EHS student who resides on Cass Street, stated that the area of Cass & Main Streets, adjacent to the Main Street School, poses an even bigger problem between 2:30 & 3:30PM when the area is packed with vehicles picking up their children. The issue of safety is not affecting just the students but adults as they enter the school area for consultations and visits.

Mr. Binette agreed with the concerns of all, noting some problems are caused by the Academy construction issues and that parking is a premium in Exeter. There are 2-hour parking areas all over town but the only area there appears to be a problem is associated with the High School. The issue was resolved a few years ago, with the school enlarging the lot and utilizing the space at the Annex. He stated we get "no consideration from School officials at all!" He urged them to call the Board and to get together to find a solution and shift the burden from the Town to the School.

This is the first reading.

5. Request to address the Board re compost – Perry D. Maurice.

Perry Maurice, 6 Cross Road, presented the Board with a box of compost from a part of the pile that has been moved from the Newfields Road compost pile to the Transfer Station. He noted most of the pile is fine but, particularly when the wind is from the west, a portion of the pile is something other than compost. He has contacted the EPA and they say there is nothing they can do, as it is not a hazardous material. He has invited Mr. Olson to visit – he has not. He asked Dept. of Environmental Services (NH) representatives to visit with him – they have not.

Mr. Olson noted the area in question was visited by Douglas Kemp (NH DES), and he has shared recommendations with Assistant Chief Ken Berkenbush (also Health Officer). These suggestions include: spreading wood ash, lime or soil on top of each windrow as a temporary measure; conduct future 'turning activities' when weather conditions are appropriate. Mr. Olson stated the piles in question are those the NH DES required us to remove from the DPW site on Newfields Road. He agreed that while delivering the transferred compost the smell was rank but the odor is controlled. Each time the compost is turned, there will be an odor. If we leave it be, it will compost more slowly. Once the composting process is complete, it will be removed to the area at the top of the hill for residents to use.

Mr. Maurice noted he bought the property last fall and was told it was just a transfer station and the landfill had been capped. He was told it would never be used again. He had asked Chief Comeau if he wished the piles moved behind his home (Chet Simpson house on Kingston Road) and he commented no. Mr. Maurice stated the smell is so bad he must keep his windows closed and that the fly population in the area has increased dramatically.

Mr. Ingram stated it appears the whole set of piles was not of concern but only one area and, perhaps, we should have that area reviewed again. Mr. Olson stated all areas have been viewed and it was noted it came from too wet an area. Chairman Pace asked Mr. Olson to contact Mr. Kemp to view the area and to notify Mr. Maurice when the visit will take place.

6. Discussion of warrant article in support of an exemption for the disabled.

Mr. Olson noted the matter was tabled at the last meeting to allow the Board to review the issue further. He stated only Town Meeting could act on exemption changes/additions. He indicated he had erred when stating an exemption would not be added to other exemptions: they are cumulative. Those that receive an elderly exemption may also receive a veteran's exemption. If they receive an exemption for the disabled, they could also receive an elderly exemption. There are, however, fewer than a dozen households in Exeter that would be eligible for the exemption proposed. ***The Board agreed to endorse a warrant article in support of an exemption for the disabled.***

7. Request to place structure in Town right-of-way – Village at Sterling Hill.

At the last meeting, Eric Katz requested permission to place plantings and signage in the Town's right-of-way off Guinea Road. Attorney Lynn Morse has reviewed the agreement and has approved of same. Mr. Ingram asked Mr. Olson if there was any reason not to approve this. Mr. Olson stated no and it would certainly improve a bad stretch of land. ***Mr. Ingram moved to accept the proposal and agreement as presented; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.***

8. Update on additional downtown parking – Parking Study – Tracy McGrail

Tracy McGrail, Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce President, updated the Board on the two areas under consideration by the Parking Study Committee and from recommendation of the Board: Parking off Swasey Parkway and at Chestnut Street.

Off Parkway: Ms. McGrail stated the property owned by Phillips Exeter Academy, adjacent to the Parkway and behind the businesses of Cambridge Trust, Baker's Peel, Donahue, Tucker et al, etc. seems a very viable location. The Committee has been working with PEA and they have been very generous, both in the availability of the land and with the agreement to jointly pay for the study. The entrance to the lot would be off the Parkway and consist of about 57 spaces. The matter has not yet gone before the PEA Board of Trustees (later this month) but no problems are foreseen. The area would remain public parking for a specified time and the Committee would return to the Board for support of town funding.

Mr. Campbell asked if the Trustees of the Parkway were in favor. Ms. McGrail noted one serves on the Committee and no objections have been raised. She noted the area behind the stores is used now, though some areas are private. This lot would be public and could be used by anyone.

Mr. Pace expressed his only downside to the proposal would be that this is the last remaining green space in that area and it would be sad to pave it over. Ms. McGrail noted the new Gas Light Park just across the street, as well as the Parkway on the other side. Mr. Campbell asked about screening between the lot and the Parkway – not wishing to see a lot as someone drives into the Parkway. There will be a buffer around the lot and PEA has a 10-year landscaping plan for their grounds which would add to this bugger.

Arthur Baillargeon expressed concern that the road into the Parkway is already too narrow and, would stop signs be necessary and, would parking now be eliminated along the roadway.

Mr. Binette asked if the Committee has reviewed the Trust of the Parkway and whether wording would allow cutting an entrance into the lot. He does not wish this to interfere with the intent of the

Parkway Trust. Ms. McGrail stated cars are parked all along the roadway now and they can park all day if they wish. This is now controlled by the Trustees.

Mr. Campbell asked why the entrance couldn't be by the PEA IT office? Ms. McGrail noted it would make an already bad intersection worse (Water & Main at Town Hill). Also, the area is not defined on where to park and who owns it, with some private parking spots intermingled with public parking.

The Mill, Chestnut Street: Ms. McGrail stated the Court Street Common group had approached the Mill owners for the use of the property for a community center. While there would be public parking available if the Center is housed there and public funds are used, the property owner will probably reject the present offer on the table, noting it was less than the appraisal. This does not appear to be a viable solution.

The Board thanked Ms. McGrail for her update.

9. Study of downtown traffic pattern – recommendations – Jennifer Perry.

Jennifer Perry, Town Engineer, stated the bridge reconstruction should be complete by mid-November and decisions are needed on whether to return to the 2-way traffic pattern or consider alternatives. Many people have remarked on the success of the stop sign at the Town Hall, as well as the one-way pattern along Water and Pleasant Streets. She introduced Lewis Caron, S.E.A. Consulting Engineering, who has conducted a study of the area.

Mr. Lewis presented four tasks to be considered.

Striping Bridge & Clifford One-Way (combines 2 tasks): The bridge originally had three lanes of traffic, making very narrow lanes (10' each), in order to turn onto Clifford heading south. The recommendation is to make Clifford one-way north from Bow to the Bridge and to re-stripe the bridge two-lanes with no left turn to Clifford. The congestion would then be reduced. He has consulted with both Chiefs and they are in favor, with the Fire Chief noting they are more concerned with getting to an incident than returning from an incident. With Clifford Street one-way, it would allow for 11-15 more spaces along the side, as the road would not need to be as wide as it is now. Also, a loading zone could be placed on the west side of the street (across from the Blue Moon Market), thereby not blocking the street and, with the zone on the west side, vehicles coming from Bow would continue on the right side of the street and not have swerve to the left around the trucks.

If the Bridge traffic did not work with two lanes, the stripe is not irreversible. Mr. Campbell asked if residents could still take a left onto Franklin? Yes, the residents of that area would be served by a left turn.

Kathy Gallant, owner of Blue Moon Market, recognizes Clifford as a tight spot and feels this is a good solution. Her concern is for the sidewalk now striped on the east side (by the store). She suggested eliminating it and have one crosswalk from the curbed sidewalk to the east side and not draw people to the other side with the traffic.

Stop Signs: The signs by the Town Hall have proved very positive. Mr. Caron noted there is a lot going on in this area – pedestrians, vehicles around the Bandstand from both String Bridge and Front Street, directional signs, etc. He stated the vehicles backed up along Water Street has not been a large issue except for those diagonally parked along the Town Hall. It appears to be less of a delay in

the downtown area and there is a smooth flow all around. He recommends a 'bulb-out' be installed by the Town Hall, taking two parking spaces away, making a pedestrian entranceway, allowing motorists to see those crossing the street more clearly and quickly. This would allow a permanent place for the stop sign and create a green area in the downtown. It was also recommended to remove some of the overhead signs, though some route signs should remain for guidance to motorists.

It was noted all four suggestions are independent of one another.

Downtown one-way: This would be a major change and feedback is definitely needed for a smooth transition. Advantages include: eliminating one-half of the cars on Water Street and allow more pedestrian friendly traffic; parallel parking spaces could be diagonal and sidewalks could be widened. (In the future, store owners could use the sidewalk for tables, etc. if presented correctly). Pleasant Street one-way would eliminate two spaces by the Library but add an additional eleven by the Library and Bridge. The stop action would be maintained at Chestnut Street/String Bridge. The structural integrity of the Bridge would need to be researched, however.

Disadvantages include: people living on Pleasant would be inconvenienced; High Street traffic would continue to shift to String Bridge; increased traffic volumes, affecting the sounds at the Library.

Mr. Caron recommended continuing with the traffic pattern but gaining public input to address issues.

Mr. Pace noted one negative point he sees is traffic continuing to back up on High Street and Portsmouth Avenue due to the flow along Pleasant and String Bridge. There is, at times, a 10 minute wait from the Portsmouth Avenue intersection. Perhaps the old configuration could be instituted but eliminate the left turn to Clifford.

Ms. Perry stated the next step would be to amend the Town's ordinances for the traffic flows, as temporary amendments were instituted with the bridge project. Chairman Pace read the proposed amendments (attached) and this was considered the first reading.

Ms. McGrail reminded the Board that Water Street will be rebuilt in the near future and the widening of the sidewalks, bulb-outs, etc. would be a good segue into the long-term plans.

#### 10. Update to Standard Operating Procedures – Evaluations.

Mr. Olson stated the SOP's contain the formats for evaluation of employees. A committee of managers and employees has worked for a year to prepare improvements over the 10-year old system. The Board acts on all changes to the SOP procedures. He noted Barbara Blenk was present to answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Ingram asked if the proposed changes could be highlighted, as well as a current policy, on what is different, added, etc. in time for review for the next meeting. Mrs. Blenk will prepare a set and leave in the Board's office for review.

11. Permits:

- Rockingham County CAP Head Start requested use of the Wheelwright Room from 8:45-11:45 on November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19<sup>th</sup> for policy meetings. *Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.*
- PEA requested blocking parking spaces on Tan Lane on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 for loading of students to attend the Exeter/Andover football game. *Mr. Campbell moved to approve; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous.*

12. Town Manager's Items:

- Tax bills will be out this week.
- The Town Clerk's office will be closed Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> in order for staff to attend training and certification programs. All other offices will remain open.
- Fall pick-up is the week of October 28<sup>th</sup> on regular trash days. This is the bulky pick-up with stickers at \$2.50 each.
- Trick or Treat is from 4-7PM on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The fire whistle will blow at the start & finish.
- The Halloween parade will form at 4:15PM at the Parkway on October 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Leaf pick-up is the week of November 4<sup>th</sup> – only in leaf bags.
- November 4<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.
- The Town's offices will be closed on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day.

13. Selectmen's Committee Reports:

Mr. Campbell: Conservation Commission met on October 8<sup>th</sup> and finished up with their policies which are to be published. Also, a brochure noting five areas of passive recreation is going to press. The EDC met on October 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed the downtown parking.

Mr. Binette: Recreation Advisory will meet on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Ingram: No meetings of the RPC have been attended as they meet the same evening he teaches but he has been kept informed of issues. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the draft of Seacoast Transportation Improvements will be discussed and the public is invited to attend at 6:30PM at the Library. Council on Aging will meet in two weeks.

Mr. Eastman: The Master Plan has been adopted by the Planning Board and he does not know why the Selectmen have not yet been received copies. RiverWoods was in with their preliminary Phase 2. DPW Budget Sub-committee met twice and again next week.

Mr. Pace: The next three phases of the Master Plan (Water, utilities, conservation) will be discussed. Historic District met Thursday to discuss applications. The Portsmouth HDC visited and discussed their scope of actions.

Mr. Ingram noted there is a lot of concern over the traffic flows and recommended considering sooner than later. Chairman Pace suggested January meetings be scheduled to discuss the issues.

14. Public Comments: None.

Mr. Binette reported great news concerning the train station: From mid-December through August, 30,000 people boarded the train at Exeter, generating over \$300,000 in ticket sales.

*Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Ingram. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:46PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara A. Blenk  
AA/HR

Attach.

**AMENDMENTS TO TOWN'S ORDINANCES:**

Change 705.3 to read:

"c. The following properties under the supervision of the Exeter Conservation Commission, on which property hunting for birds and mammals according to New Hampshire State Law shall be allowed:

Oaklands Town Forest  
Little River Conservation Area  
Smith Page Conservation Area

Change 711 to read:

"No person shall operate a motorized vehicle on posted Town Conservation land without the written permission of the Town Manager. Human powered wheeled vehicles (such as bicycles) are permitted only on well-established, marked trails where noted. Off trail biking is prohibited."

Signed this 21 day of October, 2001.

[Signature]  
Paul Binette

[Signature]

[Signature]

William E Campbell  
Board of Selectmen

# Memo

To: George Olson, Town Manager  
From: Jennifer Royce, Town Engineer *JRP*  
CC: Keith Noyes, Public Works Director  
Richard Kane, Chief of Police  
Date: 10/21/02  
Re: Amendments to One-Way Street and Regulatory Signs Ordinances

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The following amendments to the Town of Exeter Ordinances are proposed to enforce the one-way traffic pattern and parking on Clifford Street.

CHAPTER 3 ONE-WAY STREETS AND TRAFFIC CIRCLES  
Section 301

Add the following:

"Clifford Street Northerly from Bow Street to Franklin Street"

CHAPTER 1 PARKING REGULATIONS  
Section 101.2

Remove the following:

"Clifford Street West side of street"

Add the following:

"Clifford Street East side of street. Loading zone on west side of street  
~~except for loading purposes limited to 30 minutes~~"

The following amendments are proposed to terminate the temporary traffic detour and reinstitute the two-way traffic pattern after completion of the Great Bridge reconstruction project.

CHAPTER 3 ONE-WAY STREETS AND TRAFFIC CIRCLES  
Section 301

Remove the following:

"Water Street Easterly from Front Street to Pleasant Street

Pleasant Street Northerly from High Street to String Bridge Street

String Bridge Street Southerly from Pleasant Street to Water Street"

CHAPTER 4 REGULATORY SIGNS AND SIGNALS  
Section 404.1 PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURNS

Add the following:

"String Bridge Onto Water Street"