

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
October 1, 2018, Monday**

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman  
Michael Smart, Vice Chairman  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor  
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Also Present: Brian Connolly, Chief Financial Officer  
Richard Swanson, Town Auditor  
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor  
Robert Luongo, Planning Director  
Owen MacDonald, Traffic Engineer

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM.

**18 112-Traffic Regulations-Legion Field Vicinity**

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on July 30, 2018. Traffic Engineer Owen MacDonald presented the measure. A public hearing was held at the Town Council meeting on September 10, 2018.

Chair DiFazio asked about the area on the map closest to Legion Field. Mr. MacDonald responded that this area provides sightline. During this discussion, Councilor Mathews arrived (6:18PM). The area to the left is a bus stop.

Councilor Heffernan noted that it was brought up at the last meeting that there have been complaints about all day parking in the lot at Legion Field by the MBTA commuters. Mr. McDonald responded that the police will monitor. The restriction proposed is similar to what is in use at the Greenbush line- restricted between certain times of day.

Chair DiFazio asked how the measure applies to the specific ordinance. The reference cites a bus stop location.

Councilor Haugh asked if there has been a push to promote more parking close by for games, such as the lots at Town Hall or Chapman School. She has heard chatter from soccer parents, and is curious whether anything will be done to promote the parking? Mr. MacDonald responded that he can discuss this issue with the Recreation Director.

Vice Chair Smart asked what are the next steps and when will the changes take effect immediately? Mr. MacDonald responded that after the vote, the signage needs to be installed.

A Motion was made by Vice Chair Smart to forward measure 18 112 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.  
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

**18 113-Traffic Regulations-Pingree School Vicinity Associated with New Driveway Access-Egress Pattern**

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on September 10, 2018. Traffic Engineer MacDonald presented the measure via power point and reported that inherent in the redesign of the intersection, MassDOT design called for a number of regulations and these are a requirement of accepting the funding for reconstruction; enacting the regulations and forwarding to MassDOT. There are two entrance points to the Pingree School and the administration has come up with a plan to ease traffic congestion; enter school during busy hours through the field parking area. The driveway would be one way out during those times, and they are proposing further restrictions:

1. traffic waiting to turn onto Cottage Street- there was a request to make Cottage Street one way, but it was determined to be too severe. The proposal is for a left turn restriction during appropriate hours
2. Right turn only during those hours

Chair DiFazio asked to go over the chart page by page, beginning with the proposed stop signs. Mr. MacDonald reviewed them:

- Proposed Stop signs- one at Cottage Street, and one is at the driveway to Commercial Street.
- 20 mph during school zone-Commercial Street into Jackson Square and one at Cottage Street. Chair DiFazio asked if the restriction holds during the summer? Mr. MacDonald responded that he is unsure whether it is all year. Vice Chair asked the type of signs? Mr. MacDonald responded that they will be solar yellow beacons at the crosswalk (RRFB). The chair noted there will be two additional beacons and three signs and there will be flashing beacons during specific hours. Flash can be shut off in summer.
- Crosswalk in same spot (sidewalk has been extended so crosswalk shortened) there has been difficulty because of a tree limb blocking the sun.
- Restricted turns- requested by school administration. Reflected sign-No left turn during stated hours (similar to Hill Street).

Vice Chair Smart noted this is sign overload. He asked if there will be police monitor during the first month- it will be really confusing the first month. Councilor Haugh asked why the no left turn is for the full day but the speed zone is only for restricted hours, she noted that there is a half day kindergarten program. The signage could be consolidated. Mr. MacDonald responded that the point is taken but reduction may not work. He will consult further with the school.

- School driveway at Commercial Street- prohibit left turn into Jackson Square during designated hours. Traffic would have to go one more street to turn onto Madison (or cut through the Immaculate Church lot) and restrict the drive through the Lovell soccer field entrance.
- Do not enter during the hours of 8:30-9:30 and 2:30-3:30 Councilor Haugh noted this is typical of every primary school.

Chair DiFazio asked if there is a written report from the school? Mr. MacDonald reported that the principal and crossing guard are expected to attend the public hearing.

Councilor Haugh noted that as long as the parent council and parent body know about it. She would want confirmation it has been distributed and they are comfortable with it.

### **18 114-Traffic Regulations-Jackson Square Parking Restrictions**

This matter was referred to the Ordinance Committee on September 10, 2018.

Mr. McDonald provided maps showing the areas affected in Jackson Square. The location is business; time-restricted (2-hour) parking. A business owner on the other side of the street has requested parking restrictions (3-hour) so that her establishment's customers may park. The church parking on the other side of the street, which has an education tenant, is not adequate for its staff and the employees are tying up the spots along the other side of the street. Mr. MacDonald spoke with the affected abutters. In order to be fair to all parties, they will leave a section unregulated, and restrict from the church drive to the adjacent one be 3-hour.

Councilor Heffernan asked if they have raised awareness of the municipal lot. It's underutilized. There are crosswalks. Mr. MacDonald responded that an inventory was done of parking at the area when Pingree construction was going on. It is fairly heavily used during midday. The chair asked if a 3-hour restriction for a 30-40 yard segment will be that beneficial. Mr. MacDonald noted it will be similar to the other side of the street.

Councilor Haugh asked how many signs are involved? Mr. MacDonald responded two. Vice Chair Smart asked why 2-hour on one side and proposing 3-hour on the other? Mr. MacDonald responded that they have been asked to use 3-hours in Columbian Square as well. It is because a hair salon use would require more time. The municipal lot is a 2-hour restriction.

Chair DiFazio asked that the proprietor would be present at the public hearing. Councilor Haugh asked if they could consider uniform restriction. Continuity of all parking in Jackson Square makes more sense. Vice Chair Smart suggested they would like to see it go to 2-hour across the board, and they may want to amend the measure when it's voted. Mr. Luongo asked if the proprietor has a specific reason for 3 hours. The chair suggested they bring any additional information to the committee's next meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:59 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice Chair Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Haugh. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio as Ordinance Committee Chairman.  
Voted unanimously on 15 October 2018