

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 26, 2005

The meeting of the Saco Traffic Safety Committee was held on Thursday, May 26, 2005 in the City Hall Conference Room. The Traffic Safety Chairman, Deputy Chief Labonte, called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Charles Labonte, Dep. Police Chief
Bradley S. Paul, Police Chief
John Duross, Dep. Fire Chief
Councilor David Tripp
Councilor Eric Cote

Committee Members Absent:

Richard Michaud, City Administrator
Michael Bolduc, Public Works Director

The following agenda items were acted on in the following order:

1. A request from Craig Lentz on behalf of the Ferry Beach Park Association of the Universalist Church to address some traffic concerns on Surf Street and Ferry Beach Ave.

Mr. Lentz was present and presented a site map for review by the committee members. Mr. Lentz stated that from the months of April thru November there are many guests, especially a large contingency of children, using their facilities and pedestrian traffic is dangerous.

Chief Paul advised that he supports the need for a crosswalk and this is a reasonable response to this problem. Mr. Lentz stated there are trees that he will take down to also improve the visibility.

2005-07 Upon Motion by Chief Paul and seconded by David Tripp to establish a crosswalk across Surf Street to the boardwalk near the intersection of Ferry Park Avenue, and to establish a crosswalk across Ferry Park

Avenue adjacent to the playground and near the intersection of Surf Street. The motion passed unanimously.

2005-08 Upon Motion by Chief Paul and seconded by John Duross to prohibit parking on the north side of Ferry Park Avenue from the corner of Surf Street for a distance of 170 feet. The motion passed unanimously.

2. A request from Tim Mueller to prohibit parking across from his summer residence at 21 Beach Avenue to allow free and safe access to his driveways for his personal use and that of emergency vehicles.

Mr. and Mrs. Mueller were present and advised the committee that exiting and entering their driveway is difficult and sometimes impossible due to cars parking and blocking their entrance and exit. At times they can prevent people from parking there if they are home and happen to see someone parking there but other times, they come home and find they cannot enter their driveway because parked cars block it. Some of the offenders are the employees from Wormwoods Restaurant and they can usually find them and ask them to move their cars. It would also be impossible for an emergency vehicle to respond due to the blocked entrance.

2005-09 Upon Motion by Chief Paul and seconded by John Duross to prohibit parking on Beach Avenue to a point 35 feet westerly from the east end of and on the north side of Beach Avenue. This motion passed unanimously.

3. A request from Biddeford LaKermesse Committee to close Main Street for their block party on Thursday evening, June 23, 2005, from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

There were two representatives from LaKermesse who addressed the committee. The committee was advised that there was nothing on the Saco side this year and as a FYI advised that the amusement park rides will be in the Biddeford Textile parking lot and should have no impact on Saco Island. The fireworks display would be the same as last year; vendors will be on top of York Hill. Chief Paul

advised that he does not want vendors setting up in the roadway, as it takes too long for them to break down.

2005-10 Upon Motion by Chief Paul and seconded by John Duross to allow the Biddeford LaKermesse Committee to close Main Street for their block party on Thursday evening, June 23, 2005, from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

4. A request from the Public Works Department to make Front Street a ONE WAY from the intersection of Pepperell Square to the corner of Wharf Street.

Patricia Pelletier of 26 Front Street was present and advised the committee members that vehicles are entering Front Street and using her driveway to turn around. Ms. Pelletier supports the ONE WAY. Trucks will back up to make deliveries to her home so the ONE WAY would not pose a problem for UPS or postal deliveries.

2005-11 Upon Motion by Chief Paul and seconded by Councilor Tripp to make Front Street ONE WAY from the intersection of Pepperell Square to the intersection of Wharf Street. The motion passed unanimously.

After the above agenda items were acted on, Deputy Chief Labonte opened discussion on the following items.

1. Ross Road. The 25 MPH speed limit is currently under review by MDOT and we are waiting for the results of the study.

2. New County Road. Deputy Chief Labonte will contact Bruce Munger of MDOT to request a study. Traffic pulling out into the traffic coming downhill is a hazardous situation due to the crest of the hill. This location has been the scene of several fatal accidents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Attest by: Lori Angis

