

BURLINGTON PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
645 Pine Street
Minutes – May 16, 2012
DVD of this meeting on file at DPW

Commissioners present: Robert Alberry, Nathan Lavery, Solveig Overby and Jared Wood
Commissioners absent: Margaret Gundersen, Mark Porter and Marc Sherman

Commissioner Alberry called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Item 1: AGENDA: Commissioner Lavery moves to strike Item 8 (Performance Report) from this month's agenda due to the absence of some of the commissioners; include on June agenda. No discussion. Unanimous approval.

Item 2: PUBLIC FORUM

Tom Buckley - Member of the public and Manager of Customer and Energy services at Burlington Electric Department (BED). BED and DPW run the charging station at Church and Main Streets. Due to the growing population of electric cars, BED would like to update the equipment at the station (BED) and designate the parking space next to the charging station as "electric vehicles only" parking (BED and DPW). Mr. Buckley will work with Director Goodkind on the appropriate change in the ordinance language and hopes to add this topic to the June agenda.

Item 3: 61 GREENE STREET – REMOVE HANDICAP PARKING
(Joel Fleming, Public Works Engineer)

See Commission Packet: May 8, 2012 Memorandum from Joel Fleming.
Staff received a request to remove the handicap-accessible parking space in front of 61 Greene Street, as the resident who initially requested the space recently moved out. Staff recommends that this space be changed to unrestricted parking space. **Commissioner Lavery moved** to accept staff's recommendation; Commissioner Wood seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 4: TRAFFIC SIGNALS (Dave Garen, Traffic Signal Technician and Steven Goodkind, Director)

This Item was skipped and follows Item 7.

Item 5: ADA ACCESSIBILITY GRANT AWARDS
(Nicole Losch, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager)

See Commission Packet: May 8, 2012 Memorandum from Nicole Losch.

Ms. Losch announced that the 9 projects proposed by DPW, Church Street Marketplace, Chittenden County Transportation Agency, Department of Planning and Zoning, Community and Economic Development and AARP - for pedestrian improvements for ADA accessibility - were approved for

funding and construction. The projects (named in the Memo) will be funded, managed and constructed by the State, sometime next year.

Item 6: EPA COMPLETE STREETS IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP - JUNE

(Nicole Losch, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager)

DPW, with assistance from the EPA, will be hosting a *Complete Streets* implementation workshop on June 5th (9 – 4) at the Community Room in the Library. The day-long workshop, geared toward city staff, decision makers and key stakeholders, will help in developing a policy to implement *Complete Streets* plans. Ms. Losch requested that one or two Commission members attend. Commissioner Lavery tentatively agreed to attend pending checking his schedule. Commissioner Lavery will ask Commissioners Gundersen, Porter and Sherman if they are interested in attending.

Commissioner Wood: Concerned about two areas of sidewalks (in front of Pearl Street Beverage, and across from Mirabelle’s). Director Goodkind: Ms. Losch has a spreadsheet noting all sidewalk areas needing attention, and staff is prioritizing the work while working within their budget.

Item 7: 2011 ANNUAL STORMWATER REPORT (Megan Moir, Stormwater Administrator)

See Commission Packet: “City of Burlington Phase II Stormwater 2011 Annual Report” dated April 2012

The dedicated Stormwater Program is in its approximately third year and is funded by citizens and businesses (\$3/month from single family residences; \$1.17/thousand square feet from businesses). The Report is submitted as part of the requirement of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In addition to the base funding they have been receiving, the Program has been able to leverage an additional, approximately \$1.5million. Ms. Moir directed the Commission to the Website ([www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Stormwater/Stormwater Management/](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/DPW/Stormwater/Stormwater%20Management/)) for more information on current projects (e.g., stormwater and infrastructure mapping; Blanchard Beach; and in conjunction with City Arborist Warren Spinner, stormwater mitigation through the urban tree canopy, and a demonstration project using a new system called the “Silva cell system”). Director Goodkind: DPW has requested funding for a stormwater technician in the FY13 budget.

Item 4: TRAFFIC SIGNALS (Dave Garen, Traffic Signal Technician and Steven Goodkind, Director)

See two handouts distributed at the meeting (Crosswalks and distances, and Crosswalks and timing).

DPW uses the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD), the 2009 version being the most current standards. These 2009 standards set longer crossing times for pedestrian signals than past standards. The technicians have been compiling raw data from all 165 crosswalks, and expect to be fully MUTCD-compliant in the next three months. However, because meeting MUTCD standards does not always solve challenges presented by individual crossings, Mr. Garen continues to explore additional options (e.g., sensors, which he hopes to try out at the Battery and College Streets intersection).

Updates since last meeting:

- Pearl Street/Winooski Avenue intersection – south crosswalk: Improvements in phasing have been made to the to better serve pedestrians and vehicles;
- Bank Street/Winooski Avenue intersection: Mr. Garen and Mr. Benjamin continue to work on further improvements;

- Main Street/University Heights - east: Redstone Development will be paying for improvements (new countdown pedestrian signals and a “No Right Turn” sign this summer);
- Shelburne Street/Home Avenue intersection – north/south crosswalks – DPW will be installing new vehicle signals, countdown LED signals and east/west “No Turn on Red” signs, this summer;
- Archibald Street, Champlain Street/Manhattan Drive, and Pine Street/Lakeside Avenue - signal equipment replacement is taking place;
- East/Colchester Avenues – west side, no pedestrian crossing (per Commissioner Wood’s inquiry) – Director Goodkind and Mr. Garen are working on this intersection.

Director Goodkind and Mr. Garen praised the work of Mike Benjamin, new Traffic Signal Technician, for repairing/rebuilding the signal control box on Shelburne Street/189 intersection, which had been flattened by an out of control car last weekend.

Item 8: PERFORMANCE REPORT – Stricken from this Agenda; to be included on June agenda.

Item 9: FY13 BUDGET (Steven Goodkind, Director)

FY12

- As of April 30th report, out of all General Funds budgeted, of which DPW has control: \$422,000 has not been used, and could increase to \$500,000 by end of FY12. This impacts the FY13 budget. The Mayor had announced that he does not want to raise taxes in FY13. DPW will utilize the money *not* spent this year, for capital work this year (mostly sidewalk work, which will be done by Right of Way staff in a force account manner), which will enable DPW to roll over to FY13 General Funds *not* used for the capital work. More funds will then be available in FY13 for more sidewalk work, with less impact on the General Fund for that work.

FY13 Summary

- No programs were cut, even though DPW was asked to level fund programs this year.
- Adding a Trades Inspector position;
- Adding a program to accept credit cards for permit fees (the expense offset by raising permit fees from \$7 per \$1,000 construction cost, to \$8.50 per \$1,000 construction cost);
- New Stormwater technician position;
- New Water Division installer position (which will be funded by the Water program, not the General Fund);
- Engineering will be fully staffed. David Allerton was recently hired as a full-time engineer. Another new engineer will be starting this June;
- More force account work (work done by the Right of Way staff instead of hiring contractors to do the work) will be implemented.

Director Goodkind praised the work of Assistant Director Norman Baldwin for covering the Engineering Department during staff shortages.

Item 10: MINUTES OF 4/18/12

Commissioner Wood: Page 2, Item 4, “Discussion” section – Correction: “...the crossing in front of Champlain College and ~~two~~ crossings around the corner on Maple Street.” Minutes will be amended.

Commissioner Wood moved to accept the Minutes of 4/18/12 AS AMENDED; Commissioner Lavery seconded. Unanimous approval.

Item 11: CHAIR'S REPORT (Commissioner Robert Alberry) – No report.

Item 12: DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Steven Goodkind, Director)

- Repeated recognition for Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Baldwin;
- Status report on April's Agenda Item 6 (Corner of Battery/King Street parking change request): Handicap-accessible parking zoning requirements: Findings and approval from Design Review Board clearly state that all parking requirements for the new building be met on-site. Requests could still be made for additional parking on the street, but they had to have all the parking in their parking lot (e.g., handicap-accessible parking) and they did not. Loading/unloading zone will still be considered since that existed before the new building was built and it is not possible to have this on-site (underground garage).
- Status report on planned Church/Pearl Streets pedestrian crossing improvements, addressed by Dr. John Roos at the April meeting (see "Public Forum" section): Director Goodkind met with Dr. Roos and feel that this intersection may not be the best place to install the flashing crossing. The signal is already in place, so DPW will now plan to leave it and with improvements to the crosswalk (bump-outs and combining two crosswalks to one). DPW will consider using the new technology at the mid-block crosswalk on Main Street at Edmunds School.
- DPW is still cleaning up from last spring's damage to the shoreline. Most of the work will be done in the fall (decreased lake level and waterfront use). Tomorrow's press conference with the Mayor will talk about the various FEMA projects. Some projects completed already: Repaired damage to the bike path at the sewer plant near Maple Street; Blanchard Beach and between those two areas; and Perkins Pier south. The goal to complete this work before the Burlington City Marathon has been met. Director Goodkind praised Assistant Director Baldwin for stepping up to make these changes possible.

Item 13: COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wood

- Went to Jericho to observe the flashing pedestrian crossing similar to the technology being considered in Burlington. Encourages education prior to the changes at the Pearl/Church Street intersection and Main Street near Edmunds School.
- Planned sidewalks repair, east side of Mansfield Avenue from Wilson Street to Colchester Avenue: Requests that Fire Station No. 3 be notified prior to repairs. Director Goodkind: We coordinate with area occupants prior to such work.
- Sidewalk repair requested on North Street in front of Pomeroy Park. About a dozen slabs in poor condition. Director Goodkind: Sidewalk repairs are prioritized in order of condition and usage.
- Queen City Park bridge: Asphalt has come up. Director Goodkind: DPW is working on a long-term plan. Most likely needs new decking.

Commissioner Lavery

- Asked about trash collection districting. Director Goodkind represents the City on the Chittenden Solid Waste (CSWD) Board, which has been looking at ideas to make trash collection system (approximately 12 haulers) more efficient. The District has undertaken a study on a "franchise"

system. The first phase is completed and the CSWD Board is scheduled to give a presentation on the preliminary report at the June 4th City Council meeting, approximately 9 p.m. The preliminary report indicates that a franchise system *could* save approximately \$4M, though where savings will be applied is uncertain at this point. Also in question is how the Recycling Program (which uses 3 trucks in its weekly pick-up) will blend in with a proposed franchise. Director Goodkind will rely on the City Council and the Mayor for the final decision.

Commissioner Alberry

- Pearl Street, from Willard to Prospect Streets: please fill potholes. Director Goodkind: Please Street is slated for paving this year.

Commissioner Overby

- Inquired about crosswalk painting. Director Goodkind: Crosswalks are painted through summer, are scraped off during the winter, and the cycle begins again. Two crews have just begun the cycle again. For example, the crosswalk at the Colchester Avenue/Barrett Street intersection was barely visible so that crosswalk was painted first.
- Had received Ms. Losch's e-mail about the Pedestrian Bike/Walk talk last Saturday (Jane Jacobs Walk) and praised the DVD shown during the meeting, entitled, "The Champlain Street Urban Renewal Project" by Patrick Farrington. Briefly, it recounts the history of redevelopment in the primarily Italian neighborhood and talks about "augmented reality" that was demolished in the 1960's to make room for the Burlington Square Mall, and Battery Street redevelopment. Also demonstrated was a project by Coby Brownell to develop a 3-D Smartphone app using "augmented reality" to show what the neighborhood looked like before it was lost.

Item 14: COMMITTEE REPORTS: No reports.

Item 15: POLICY UPDATE: No policy updates.

Item 16: ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.; Commissioner Lavery seconded. Unanimous approval.