

Sustainability and Transportation Committee

November 15, 2017

Minutes

Councilors Present: Councilor Duson, Acting Chair, Councilor Ray

Councilors Absent: Councilor Thibodeau

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Chris Branch, Mike Murray, John Peverada

Sustainability Updates

Chris Branch visited the Ocean Ave landfill with the contractor working on the cap and DEP. The contractor is placing clay on material and – expect to be done with fill, loam and seed by Thanksgiving. Gas remediation is outside solar footprint and can happen even as the solar project begins. DEP is working on a draft permit that could be released shortly.

Chris had monitor wells inspected – in good condition. SW Cole is to replace caps and locks on 6 wells. DPW is working with DEP to come up with monitoring protocols. This is not required by DEP but the City will be doing this on our own.

The City is working on storm water management plan for landfill. We will also need to do some work to add material in locations of the landfill that have inadequate cover. We have also discovered an old private landfill on what is now dog park that may need some cover.

Chris reported the recycling with carts continues to go very well with 99% compliance at this point.

Troy reported that the financing and the contract for the streetlight project is complete. Work could begin as early as December.

Tow Fees

Mike Murray described the proposed fee increases for vehicles towed from streets and public property. He indicated that fees had not been increased in many years. Staff is recommending the increases so they align with neighboring communities.

Councilor Duson asked what recommendations from tow operators that were not accepted?

Mike responded that staff is not recommending changes for tows related to No show or After hours.

Public comment opened by Councilor Duson:

Lisa – Adams Towing , She feels that after hours fees should be allowed because they would like to be off on Saturdays, too. Drop fees should be increased because they have to pay drivers to be there even if they don't get the tow. There aren't that many tows from the City every year – average just over 3 per week on an annual basis.

TJ Troiano: T&J Towing – thanks the committee for hearing the tow fee increases. Auto insurance, workers comp, truck costs, all have gone up in recent years. Would love to do more work for the City but other customers pay more so its hard. Increase in fee would allow them to participate more.

Public Comment closed.

Councilor Ray asks John Peverada to provide context. He explained that staff met with drivers to discuss concerns and agreed with most. Two things staff is not recommending change – after hours fee, because most businesses are open Saturday. 7 AM - 7 PM every day seemed reasonable. There is no way to verify the no show fee. John agrees that it is time to adjust the fees because of increased costs to the tow operators.

Councilor Ray – do we know how much i tows are? Peverada, no, it depends. Our proposed rates are in line with other cities in New England

Councilor Duson – do we have trouble getting tows

Peverada – no we don't

Councilor Ray – do we work exclusively with a tow company?

Peverada – no, we have a list that rotate

Councilor Duson – appreciates that staff reached out to the tow operators. She feels the increases seem modest and she is inclined to support staff recommendation.

Councilor Ray – also inclined to support the increase. Reminds the public that they can still weigh in with the full Council.

Motion by Ray, 2nd by Duson: both in favor

Changes to parking changes.

Mike Murray provides some background. The goal of the proposal is to relax restrictions around street maintenance from June 1 – Sept 30, mainly on the peninsula. Exempting PD district. October – May the restrictions would be back in place to allow services such as leaf removal and snow removal. Staff recommends that the committee advance this recommendation to full council. The 2nd component would be to eliminate the Odd/Even parking restriction that is mainly off peninsula. Only 3 areas of the city currently have enforcement of this restriction. DPW reports that they are able to do their work by maneuvering around parked vehicles. Staff recommends this restriction be lifted as well.

Councilor Ray – asked questions during last meeting.

Councilor Duson opened public comment.

Michelle Landry, peaks Island

Thanks the committee for entertaining this. Peaks Island residents have zoned parking. On Thames Street there are 14 metered, 15 signed. Lower hancock and part of Thames blocked by construction. 35 spaces on Fore Street. Appreciates the opening up in the summer but the restricitons will still be a problem for island residents. Dwon to 14 spaces on 1 & 3. Would eliminate the restrictions on Thames entirely.

Councilor Ray: Confirms that the Portland Downtown will not be lifted. The spaces on lower Hancko and Thames will return.

Peverada: Hancock street will be back by the end of the year. On Thames, only 4 spaces are currently used by construction. He indicated that island residents can park at meters from 6 PM - 9 Am any day.

Chris Branch – understands concern about the conflicts with the 1&3 restrictions. Peverada indicated that in the past the City has tried to make adjustments in the past but changes in one area make problems in other areas.

Branch – if we don't have the restrictions then we will need to post. This only requires 12 hour notice which could lead to islanders being towed because they didn't know about the posting

Councilor Ray – is it possible to make adjustments in the restriction schedule to minimize the conflicts. Peverada and Branch agree to look at this.

Councilor Ray moves adoption of the changes to parking restricitons, Councilor Duson seconds. Both in favor.

Adjourn