

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
645 PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES**

For video of the meeting, please visit Town Meeting TV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0r9VW6DgXY&t=978s>

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Commissioner Damiani (Vice Chair), Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Hogan, Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco (Chair), Commissioner Sears (remote)

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Commissioner Munteanu

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORD

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the agenda
Commissioner Diamante seconded
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Sharon Bushor called in stating what a good job on the sidewalk repair on East Avenue but now some of the concrete has started pitting. The crew who put in the sidewalk were great but the cleanup crew did a terrible job leaving concrete pieces in the greenbelt. The new grass that was put down cannot be mowed and the plastic holding grass is all over the neighborhood. Please check into this and have it replaces.

Sharon Bushor also stated that her walkway was taken out and when it was replaced it is now sloped and slanted. The private walkway is slanted and water is pooling where slant is located. This was not looked at when finished and I would like to have this redone as the work is terrible and winter is coming afraid of icing in this area.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Approval of Draft Minutes 7/26/23**
- 4.2 Walnut Street Parking Tim Adjustment**
- 4.3 Adding ADA space at 80 Blodgett Street**
- 4.4 Elmwood Avenue Motorcycle Parking**

Commissioner Barr made motion to approve

Seconded by Commissioner Diamante

There was a question on the correct address for Blodgett Street, both 80 and 90 were stated but most paperwork says 80 and I'm sure this is correct but there are the two different addresses.

DPW Associate Public Works Engineer Madeline Suender reviewed work and stated that 80 was the correct address. The typo will be fixed in the paperwork.

Also was glad to see the motorcycle parking space added to 34 Elmwood Avenue

Unanimous Approval

ITEM 5 – DPW Performance Metrics – Traffic Safety

DPW Engineer Julia Ursaki had a power point presentation which showed city-wide trends for all crashes, bike and pedestrian crashes, a section of North Avenue and the next steps would be the vision zero plan. Data also retrieved from the state information. There is an overview of when crash happens, trends of accidents, trends of bicycles and pedestrians going down over time. There was one pedestrian fatality on North Avenue section after the changes were implemented between Shore Road and Route 127. The next step is to create a policy for Vision 0 – gathering the data and making available. The next step is to create a policy for Vision 0 to gather data and make it available.

Commissioner Hogan asked if the MOU we are getting historical data and was informed that yes.

What was the process for update and was informed that in January we will pull the previous year and get the injury data from them.

Commissioner Diamante if the content included vehicle, bike and pedestrian and the car to pedestrian information will go straight to the state and filed under pedestrian accident. Vision 0 need more elaboration.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco can see how we can support pre and post infrastructure changes need to figure out a more complete picture.

DPW Engineer Ursaki stated that crash reports are from the police and the severe injury reports are from VTRANS.

Sharon Bushor questions how this was being addressed and is it being factored into this all, COVID there was not as much traffic and was it addressed: We have taken great strides in bike and pedestrian safety. This is an unknown entity are improvements as significant as shown?

ITEM 6 – GMT Fare Policy

Director Spencer introduced the General Manager of GMT Clayton Clark who was invited to this meeting to explain the return of fares and how this will work.

Mr. Clayton explained that the changes coming to GMT are a work in progress. Fares were dropped in 2020 due to COVID and fare free continued due to the State providing additional support, which will go until January 2024.

There are certain routes that will return to fare collection which are the Chittenden County local fares, 116 Commuter, Milton and Jeffersonville and the Link Express Routes Montpelier and St. Albans.. The state has taken the position to provide funding to extend zero fare operation on rural public transit given the lower cost as compared and the significantly fewer transit options in these locations.

GMT took into consideration fare collection factors, which include limiting financial impact of fares, offering an easily understandable fare system, increasing opportunities for organizations to support public transportation, providing GMT with critical local match funding. A new fare box technology call GenFare, which will provide customers to pay via a debit/credit card/smartphone or smartcard; ability to cap costs for individual user and improve options for organizations to pay for service. Would like to have a daily cap for full-price riders, which will be \$4.00, discounted rate cap, is \$2.00.

Commissioner Fox asked for clarification on discounted passes at 18 or younger? 18 will be the cap for discounted passes. Commissioner Fox asked about the smart cards and cost of the cards and if customer has to pay for another card if lost. Mr. Clark stated we will provide a card which looks like a credit card with GMT Logo, nothing on card to distinguish discounted ride. These will be able to be used throughout the systems.

Commissioner Sears asked if these cards were transferrable and Mr. Clark advised they were linked to one individual. Questions in previous public meeting if a mom, dad and kids were together not run 3 times need to be addressed.

Commissioner Barr asked if there was a card with money does it have to be used. Mr. Clark stated they can use a smart phone if they wish, create an account for contact free.

Commissioner Hogan stated a cap makes sense. How do you make a lower cap for local routes? Mr. Parker stated was not sure if we could cap routes like that locally. Commissioner Hogan asked about UVM students or staff. Mr. Parker stated unlimited access just ID ride for free UVM Pays a flat fee once a year. Commissioner Hogan asked about Dealer.com or city employees and Mr. Clark stated that there are portals for other organizations to add money or we will send an invoice.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about a family pass rural versus urban what taxpayers invest and where are they targets? Mr. Parker stated urban and local are covered by different statues and the money is separate. Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about the high schoolers and middle schoolers who take the bus and inquired If the change was communicated to the schools and the after school programs. Mr. Parker stated they just have to show their ID.

ITEM 7 – DPW Commission Annual Report To City Council

Director Spencer stated that City Council President Paul wants to start the annual reporting at the end of Fiscal Year 23 on what the departments have accomplished for the fiscal year.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco gave a brief overview of the projects that staff before the commission for a vote. We are encouraging young engagement for the boards and have focused on the Burlington City and Lake Program which is through high school working with city staff and have their own presentations. This is an innovative way to get the youth involved.

Commissioner Fox stated this was very cut and dry and then an abrupt to go to Youth Engagement, a sentence in between would make it more cohesive.

Commissioner Hogan stated this is a summary of the commission activities and traffic calming need to go hand in hand with law enforcement, improvement in street safety.

Commissioner Barr stated safety needs to be emphasized. Director Spencer stated that this is based on when submitted to City Hall.

Commissioner Barr made motion to adopt draft letter - with new version just shared.
Commissioner Hogan seconded.
5 approved and 1 abstained.

ITEM 8 – COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATION

Commissioner Hogan stated the line striping is looking good. Heard concerns from neighbors about driver's speed on Locust Street. Director Spencer stated that we are doing a traffic study there, tubes have been put out. We are reviewing the data and then we can determine if any other interventions are necessary, Commissioner asked if we do our own counts? Director Spencer stated he thinks they are doing it in coordination with the CCRPC but I would need to double check. Tubes were down this year and we want to see the post data construction results.

Commissioner Barr stated members of the Old East End met with staff and we had positive engagement and they guided us on the right thing to do for traffic safety

Commissioner Sears and item on the consent agenda referencing the parking changes on Walnut Street that was brought to the attention by the IAA. This issue is much larger than the basic changes made to Archibald. A resident has been talking to neighbors about turning Walnut Street into a one way street to help with flow and drop off at the IAA. There are some changes that are being looked at on Archibald.

Commissioner Fox has concerns around the IAA as well. The curb ramps at North Street are a huge improvement and the bike signal triggers are great at the intersections. Would like to hear if there are any staffing updates.

Commissioner Diamante good to see bump outs at North Union and Grant Streets. Over at Edmunds having a sign further south as folks are approaching South Union and Main Street entrance having the straight and turn sign having another one further south so cars know what lane to be in sooner. Director Spencer stated that that is one that is on his list as well and will make sure it gets done before winter because that is a confusing intersection.

Commissioner Diamante thinking about April 8, 2024 is the total solar eclipse and we are right in the path of totality so I was curious to know what the city was doing in terms of planning for potentially mass amounts of people coming to the Burlington area for the event. Director Spencer stated it is actually being organized by others in the city coordinating with us and talking about how the Main Street project will interact with that. Opportunity to do some remote parks and ride.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco cross department coordination parking in Overlake and being towed and construction but that is one example. Another example there are some tree limbs obstruction signs on Mansfield Avenue and they contacted DPW and DPW said contact City Arborist. The City Arborist said that they already did work in that area and to contact DPW. There is not clear communication about who does what; tree trimmers sees how things should be done but not necessarily with infrastructure. It's hard to see sign father away until you get close to it by Loomis and Mansfield.

The homeless encampment on Union Street near the YMCA and that little nook on is growing. There is a lot of youth traffic that corner does not feel safe anymore. Staffing in preparation for snow removal just thinking about streets and water making sure the staff that we have there are able to deal with snow removal. Director Spencer stated we are well staffed in Street Maintenance, we are CDL challenged but working to get those individuals up and running for their CDL's. Sidewalk tractors do not require CDL licenses. Water Distribution will be able to help with plowing when it is needed.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco stated the traffic calming on South Prospect Street. Director Spencer stated the hump is compliant with the design standard.

ITEM 9 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

City Council is requesting annual reports from the various commission to the Council. We have been asked to provide a report of '23. Currently working with Chair O'Neill-Vivanco and Vice Chair Damiani to get a draft report done which will then go to Commission and once finalized will go to City Council.

North plant siphon emergency response contractor and our staff put in a mile long temporary bypass sewer main was activated and operating fairly reliably. We are trying to get this fixed before winter.

195-201 Flynn Avenue DPW is working to address two issues in the south end related to recycling. This project has been put on delay due to the Champlain Parkway's delays and a drop off center at this site has not yet been developed. Negotiations are ongoing between the city and CSWD but we need more time to work through some issues and are requesting a one year extension of the current MOU between CSWD and the city.

Champlain Parkway is under construction and is ahead of schedule we are approaching the end of the construction season.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING DATE – October 18, 2023

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Fox seconded

Unanimous approval

Meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.