

**Traffic Safety Advisory Committee**  
**March 17, 2008**  
**Minutes**

Present: Chief Douglas - Chairman  
Bill Parker  
Gil Archambault  
Dave Wheeler  
Mike Putnam, Board of Selectman representative

Absent: Kevin Lynch  
Bill Ruoff  
Bob Courage

Kathryn Parenti, Recording Secretary

1. Roll Call vote required by the BOS.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*2. Discussion regarding the definition of compact cars and parking issues.*

F. Douglas began by noting he believed this discussion was to be about the two (2) parking spaces on Middle Street, that were limited to compact cars, as noted by the sign near the two (2) spots.

M. Putnam replied the compact car discussion came about because of the two (2) parking spots in front of the Milford Diner that the TSC recommended to do away with. He noted he and Gary Daniels, of the Board of Selectmen, were researching the definition of compact cars due to the BOS discussion of whether or not to limit those spaces to compact cars. Their discussion came about because they felt something was needed there to restrict parking, for safety reasons. He stated the problem with other definitions of compact cars was the lack of any height restrictions. The problem with the enforcement of the other compact car sign is there is no adopted definition to be enforced.

F. Douglas noted on Middle Street, there is no ordinance or definition of compact cars. The sign was installed to see what would happen. He noted this issue came up because Dawn Griska, secretary to the Board of Selectmen brought this to light. He thought it may be before the Committee because Guy Scaife, Town Administrator, wanted a definition. He noted this issue was forwarded to the Downtown Improvements group but he was unsure if they were looking into it or not.

B. Parker replied he thought they were discussing the crosswalk and parking issue in front of the diner and the question was: should the parking spots be eliminated and the crosswalk relocated or should it be left to be dealt with during the Oval Improvements? If that was the case, the final outcome could be far in the future, due to the timing of the Oval Improvements and the financing of said improvements; that was why the Committee recommended removing the parking spaces.

M. Putnam didn't think eliminating one parking spot in front of the diner would impact the business. He stated he had gotten several complaints about the cross walk from residents, mainly when a van was parked in front of the diner and blocking the view of the crosswalk. Paul Bergeron of Souhegan Street told him he had nearly hit pedestrians twice because the view was blocked.

G. Archambault noted this issue of near misses was discussed at the last TSC meeting.

M. Putnam was wondering if this issue of the definition of compact cars was a result of that.

F. Douglas noted the RSA talks about the distances of parking spaces from intersections, inclusive of crosswalks and there should be ten (10) feet from the crosswalk to the first parking spot. He noted there was a problem with the distances all around the oval. He did note, if anything was done on the Oval, it should be consistent.

M. Putnam stated in front of the Town Hall, on the South Street side, for the traffic flowing from the left, there is ten (10) feet between the first parking space and the cross walk. He did agree there were no other areas on the Oval that are as dangerous as the area in front of the diner.

B. Parker noted the rearrangement of the parking the way it is supposed to be is a long way off. He felt if the first parking space in front of the diner was eliminated, it would gain some footage and make it a safer situation. He felt removing one (1) spot would not be detrimental to businesses around the Oval.

D. Wheeler asked if it was possible to move the crosswalk to the bridge.

M. Putnam replied that had already been discussed and it was determined that it would not be possible and it was already handicapped accessible.

B. Parker noted, when the traffic was stopped on the bridge last week for a sign installation, he was stopped before the diner by traffic control. He thought that was a good spot for a crosswalk: from the corner of Bridge Street to the other side of the Oval and shift the two (2) parking spaces north.

M. Putnam noted that area before the bridge was very tight and if a parking spot was eliminated, it would make that area a bit wider. He explained he and G. Daniels were looking for a definition of a compact car that would incorporate height but they have not had any luck in finding such a thing.

F. Douglas noted the definition of compact cars, from *The New Illustrated Book of Development Definitions, 1993* does not address height.

D. Wheeler wondered if they could post a no trucks or vans sign.

M. Putnam felt that without a written definition of compact cars, it would be hard to enforce.

B. Parker felt the Committee should recommend, for safety reasons, the elimination of one (1) parking space until the downtown Oval plans are looked at.

There was some discussion as to why this topic was being brought up again, since it had already been discussed and the Committee's recommendations had been submitted to the BOS.

F. Douglas noted, in the original design for Oval improvements, there was a teardrop area to be installed at the corner of Putnam Street and Middle Street, which would help with that situation and no parking spaces would have to be eliminated. In addition, there were to have been angled parking spaces. He thought that was included in the past downtown improvements but were not done. He also read from the Board of Selectmen minutes from January 14, 2008: "*Vice Chairman Daniels has been looking into traffic issues with Selectman Putnam regarding the parking of compact cars – he has done some research and is trying to find a definition of "compact car". The State statutes do not have one, but compact car is referred to. ... Vice Chairman Daniels said that right now, it is not enforceable; if the town designates something as compact cars, it needs to be enforced.*" He felt they don't need to designate anything but only need to eliminate the one (1) parking space.

B. Parker asked if the Board wanted a compact car ordinance.

F. Douglas stated, in the case of Putnam and Middle Streets, he would rather enhance the intersection by moving the stop sign further south.

G. Archambault noted they had submitted a report to the BOS last year about that area and was told to wait for the Oval improvements.

F. Douglas stated he and K. Parenti would work on a letter to the BOS emphasizing the safety issue at the crosswalk in front of the bridge and recommending the removal of the first northern most parking space.

M. Putnam noted it was difficult to determine the definition of compact cars and felt the above would be a better solution.

G. Archambault noted, in Germany and England, compact car parking spaces are painted on the ground. If a car is parked in those spaces and does not fit in the painted area, it is ticketed.

M. Putnam noted that solution still does not address the height issue.

G. Archambault felt the Committee should make the recommendation mentioned previously and see how it goes.

F. Douglas stated the letter would explain to the BOS that Middle Street should remain the same and should be dealt with during the Oval improvements. He said the letter would note that the Committee still has concerns with the parking in front of the diner, and those concerns arose from a safety standpoint. He was concerned with BOS inactivity with Traffic Safety Issues, especially in issues where the public safety is concerned.

M. Putnam noted there was a liability issue with all the documentation regarding these issues and no action has been taken by the BOS.

#### *4. Approval of minutes from December 17, 2007.*

F. Douglas asked if anyone had any questions with the minutes. Since there were none, he asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes.

M. Putnam made the motion to accept the minutes as printed.

B. Parker seconded.

All were in favor of accepting the minutes as printed. None were opposed.

F. Douglas asked if there were any additional items to discuss. There were none.

B. Parker made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

M. Putnam seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30.