



## PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Merrimack School District  
<http://www.isone.com/~merrpbc>

December 11, 2006

Present: K. Annutto, S. Barnes, R. Hendricks, S. Heinrich, L. Rothhaus (arrived late)

Excused: F. Rothhaus

Also present: S. Lemay, Director of Maintenance

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

S. Heinrich told the Committee that when he had contacted S. Lemay to invite her to the meeting, they had some preliminary discussions regarding high school traffic and parking concerns and possible options. He said that she had told him that the tennis courts and the parking area associated with them are maintained by the town.

S. Lemay stated she was against removing the internal guardrails due to safety concerns.

S. Barnes asked about installing portable speed bumps – either on O’Gara Drive or in the O’Gara Drive parking lots. S. Lemay stated she did not think they would work.

S. Lemay also indicated that if the internal guardrails were removed, there would still be grassy areas near the PSNH poles that needed to be paved and that something would need to be placed around the poles to protect them. S. Barnes suggested that the grassy areas could be used for “snow storage” in the winter and asked if Jersey Barriers would provide the needed protection. S. Lemay indicated that there has not been a problem with snow storage.

S. Lemay told the Committee that her staff plows the new Masticola Elementary parking lot. She stated it has many small islands which are problematic.

S. Heinrich asked about removing just the internal guard rail from the smallest of the O’Gara parking lots and providing some protection for the PSNH pole. S. Lemay still did not think this was a good idea.

Members asked S. Lemay for comments about putting a guardrail along O’Gara Drive. S. Lemay stated the biggest concern is the large trucks with wings that plow the road. In addition, if the dirt is not completely frozen, Maintenance has to deal with plowing the off-road parking area as the large trucks get stuck in the mud. S. Lemay stated Maintenance really does not have the equipment to do this. She also stated that the School District is not supposed to be plowing anything, but that sometimes Maintenance has to plow some of the parking lots. However, she

said that Maintenance does plow the various paved play areas and the school side walks. She said some of this is regulated by union contract.

R. Hendricks told the Committee that from his observation approximately 40 – 45 cars park in this off-road dirt area.

S. Heinrich told S. Lemay that the Committee would like to see guardrails installed along O’Gara Drive. He said the Committee #1 priority would be to eliminate parking along O’Gara, near the entrance from Baboosic Lake Road and the #2 priority is to do something about the cars parked in the dirt area. He also said that the Committee thinks that more signage is needed.

S. Lemay asked about police enforcement of parking issues and indicated that she might already have some signs that could be put up.

R. Hendricks stated that the high school has to take responsibility for and establish guidelines for parking on the dirt area. He suggested establishing a parking permit fee that was half the fee for parking in the paved lots.

(L. Rothhaus arrived at this time.)

K. Annutto asked about putting a guardrail at some length (car length plus some amount for snow storage) inside the dirt area and requiring back-in only parking. He said this would eliminate the plowing issue, would limit the number of cars that could be parked and solve the problem of cars backing into traffic. He also suggested that the area in question might be leveled and have some gravel put down.

By consensus, members agreed to the following

- they would not recommend the removal of any internal guardrails
- they would recommend the installation of guardrails along O’Gara Drive from the tennis court area to Baboosic Lake Road
- they would recommend barriers of some kind after the tennis courts until the water retention pond
- they would recommend more and better signage.

Members reviewed a draft report and agreed the next step is to talk to the police department and that that they might suggest that the School Board discuss options for the area surrounding the tennis courts with the Town Council. They further suggested that talking to a traffic consultant regarding traffic flow would be another possibility.

S. Heinrich stated that, since the Committee had met tonight, the meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup> would be cancelled. He also noted that there were potential quorum for the January meetings so those might be cancelled, but members would be notified accordingly.

S. Barnes made a MOTION to adjourn. Second: K. Annutto. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.