

OCEAN GROVE PARKING TASK FORCE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ocean Grove Parking Task Force was created by Township Resolution No. 16-303 on June 27, 2016 with a charge to, “discuss, review and present proposals and/or recommendations to the Township Committee for consideration to address parking in the Ocean Grove Historic District”. Members were appointed to the Task Force on July 25, 2016 by Township Resolution No. 16-337.

With that mission in mind, the Task Force, with the expert advice of Township Engineer Leanne Hoffman and Lt. Michael Zarro, the Township’s Traffic Officer, met on August 17, September 6, September 20, October 4, November 14, and November 29, 2016.

The Ocean Grove Parking Task Force makes the following recommendations with the understanding that the recommendations will be submitted to James Watson, the parking expert retained by the Township and then, together with the advice of Mr. Watson, submitted to the Township Committee.

The Ocean Grove Parking Task Force makes the following affirmative recommendations:

- The majority of the Task Force recommends the addition of angled parking on the north side of Main Avenue from New Jersey Avenue to as close to Lawrence Avenue as is feasible.
- The majority of the Task Force recommends the addition of angled parking on the west side of Central Avenue from Heck Avenue to Webb Avenue as is feasible.
- The majority of the Task Force recommends expert analysis of whether it is possible to add angled parking on the west side of Central Avenue from Main Avenue to Heck Avenue. If so, the majority of the Task Force recommends the addition of angled parking on the west side of Central Avenue from Main Avenue to Heck Avenue.
- The majority of the Task Force recommends a limitation on parking in the Main Avenue business district from Central Avenue to New York Avenue to three hours on a seasonal basis (May 15- September 15) from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- The Township’s commercial vehicle ordinance, Ord. No. 7-7.10 provides limitations on the height, width and length of commercial vehicles parking in the Township. The width limitation is current eight (8) feet. The majority of the Task Force recommends that the Township undertake a professional examination of the

current limitations to determine whether the width of commercial vehicles should be limited further on the narrower streets within the Historic District.

In determining to make these recommendations, the Task Force discussed a wide range of issues. We believe that two of these issues merit further consideration by the Township but are not suitable for Task Force recommendations either because further discussions at the municipal level are necessary or because the issue is addressed by current ordinance. Nonetheless, we believe that these issues merit the Township's continuing consideration and attention.

First, the Task Force has examined the feasibility of adding parking on the open lot at the corner of Inskip and Pennsylvania when necessary. Representatives of the Task Force have discussed this matter with the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association. While many questions remain, the Task Force believes that ongoing conversations between the Township and the Camp Meeting concerning developing parking in that space, perhaps on an as needed basis, are appropriate.

Second, the Task Force urges continued vigorous enforcement of the current commercial vehicle ordinance to insure that available spaces may be used by those living in and visiting Ocean Grove. For example, when a contractor leaves several commercial vehicles in front of a construction project overnight or over a weekend, those parking spaces are not available for residents or visitors. We urge that the Township remain vigilant to prevent such violations of current parking ordinances.

The Task Force also discussed several other possible ways to address the parking situation in Ocean Grove that were not recommended by the majority of the Task Force at this time including paid parking, permit parking, shuttle buses and a parking garage.

The Task Force looks forward to the Township's continued efforts to improve the parking situation in Ocean Grove.