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City Manager

CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Matthew R. Walsh, Deputy City Manager - Development

DATE: August 14, 2023

SUBJECT: Warren Street Handicap Parking

Recommendation:

Accept the following report and set the attached ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; Title II, Traffic Code; Chapter 18, Parking, Article 18-1, Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 18-1-8, Parking Time Limited in Designated Places, by amending Schedule III, as well as Section 18-1-16, Handicap Parking, Schedule XVIII, for public hearing on September 11, 2023.

Background:

On December 16, 2021, Susan Dow, resident of Pembroke, contacted the City and requested the establishment of an on-street handicap parking space near the YMCA on Warren Street. Ms. Dow indicated that she is a disabled individual who regularly attends the YMCA. Ms. Dow's request is attached.

Discussion:

The Parking Committee discussed Ms. Dow's request on March 28, 2022 and September 26, 2022, respectively.

During its review, the Parking Committee noted there are seven handicap parking spaces located within the City's State Street Parking Garage, which directly abuts the YMCA. The Committee also provided written notice of this request to property owners in the vicinity of the YMCA.

The Parking Committee also noted that Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for an on-street accessible parking space typically necessitate 13' feet of shoulder space (i.e. 8' parking bay with 5' wide ramp immediately adjacent to the space). An example of such spaces would include on-street parallel accessible spaces near Merrimack County Savings Bank on North Main Street, which were reconstructed as part of the 2015-2017 Main Street Project.

However, the Committee also discussed alternative standards, which govern establishment of accessible spaces not associated with new roadway construction. Said standards have been established by the United States Access Board, which was established in the 1970s prior to the ADA. Per said regulations, the City may retroactively add accessible on-street parking spaces to

an existing street. In addition, a 5' wide ramp is not required in situations where the existing sidewalk is less than 14' in width. Therefore, per these standards, the City can reasonably convert an existing on-street space near the YMCA into an accessible space without having to add sidewalk ramping.

Additionally, during its review, the Parking Committee noted that time limits for public handicap parking spaces are identical to meter time zone limits wherever said spaces are located. On-street meter zones on Warren and North State Street in the vicinity of the YMCA currently have a 10-hour time limit. The Committee was concerned that, if created, said handicap accessible space could be occupied for up to 10 hours, thus limiting the utility of this space for the YMCA and other surrounding properties. Representatives who attended the September 2022 Parking Committee meeting noted that classes at the YMCA are typically two-hours or less in duration. As such, the Parking Committee recommended that said handicap space have a two-hour limit.

During its September 26, 2022 meeting, the Parking Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the attached Ordinance establishing one on-street handicap accessible space along the YMCA's Warren Street frontage, as shown below. Additionally, if created, said space shall have a two-hour limit.

Locus Map (Location of Handicap Accessible Space shown in Yellow)

