

Parking Committee Report
Adjusting Free Parking Spaces in the Village central district.

One of, if not the main parking problem which arises in the central business district (CBD)* is the lack of visible and accessible parking spaces near the restaurants, shops and offices located in the central business core. It seems apparent to even the casual observer that for the businesses in the village to continue to be successful – and therefore the village itself – the parking spaces in this central core must be kept available for customers of the central downtown businesses. After much study and consideration, it is the conclusion of the Municipal Parking Committee that parking spaces in and around the central downtown business district are provided for and should be easily visible and available at all times to residents, visitors and tourists driving into the central downtown business district and looking for a parking space so they can transact business in the offices, restaurants or retail shops in the central business district. A Woodstock Area Chamber of Commerce survey done earlier this year found that the large majority of business owners in the area agree.

These parking spaces should be available seven days a week throughout most of the year and especially in the busy summer and fall tourist seasons, on holiday weekends, during the Christmas holiday shopping season and on winter ski weekends. Business owners, employees, or visitors who will be parking all day or for a large part of the day, should be discouraged from using these close-in parking spaces, except occasionally for short periods of time, and encouraged to park outside of the central downtown business district.

The central business district parking spaces that have high visibility to those driving in the village, including some on North Park Street and on North Elm Street, which currently allow free parking all day or for some period of time, are at a premium. These highly visible and easily accessible parking spaces should be metered and made available for visitors and customers. Free parking in these visible and easily accessible parking spaces should be eliminated. Business owners, employees, residents and others familiar with available parking in and around the central downtown business district should choose parking spots which are not in the central business core or those farther from the central retail area.

Lower cost long time parking, whether by business owners, employees or residents visiting on business, and free parking should be provided outside this central downtown business core. Those needing a space available at all times in the central business district should avail themselves of the opportunity to lease a space in the Historical Society parking lot.

* *Central Business District –*

- *Central Street – from Bond Street to Chittenden Bank*
- *Elm Street – both sides from Central Street to Pleasant Street*
- *North Park Street – both sides from Chittenden Bank to the West end of the Green*
- *South Park Street – both sides from Chittenden Bank to the West end of the Green*
- *South 106 – both sides from South Park Street to School Street*

Historically, parking meters were installed at the request of village business owners to increase “turnover” in the parking spaces, allowing more customers to park close to the retail shops. This should continue to be the main goal of parking meters and parking enforcement in the central downtown business district

To discourage the use of metered spaces in the central business district by long-term parkers the following actions are recommended:

- Increase the time that coins must be deposited from 8 AM until 6 PM
- Increase cost of parking at a CDBD meter to \$1 per hour
- Increase meter fine from \$5 to \$10 and the late payment fee to \$15
- Reinstitute a time limit for parking in the same spot -- 2hr or 3 hr
- Eliminate 4 hr parking in the central business district (Mechanic Street lot)

Appendix H

To encourage use of all day or part day parking and to provide free parking outside of the central business district the following actions are recommended:

- Acquire by lease the Norman Williams Library parking lot for metered parking
- Provide lower cost metered space or free spaces at more distant parking spaces ___ minutes walk to Central and Elm
- Develop new, lower cost or free parking spaces on Court Street
- Retain free parking on Elm Street north of Pleasant Street
- Retain free parking on East Pleasant Street

C Hollingsworth
August 20, 2007

----- Additional Suggestions: I believe this is what we discussed -----

To replace parking spaces that will be lost when the Frost Mills Parking lot is closed and prepare for future parking needs at Vail Field, Woodstock Elementary School and for downtown parking, the following actions are recommended:

Develop in 3 stages a municipal free parking lot on the old A&B motors site:

- o Stage 1
 - The town of Woodstock acquires the former A&B motors property using property tax revenue to retire a five-year loan. (Cost: \$400,000 +)
 - Convert the existing building into a garage for the Village of Woodstock vehicles. Grade and expand the current parking area for up to 18 vehicles (Cost: \$75,000)
- o Stage 2
 - Raze the current Village of Woodstock garage on Mechanic Street & Create 10 new parking spaces in place of this building. (Cost: \$?)
 - Develop rental space and an ambulance sleeping room in the existing building. (Cost: \$?)
- o Stage 3
 - Ongoing evaluation of parking needs
 - If and when additional parking is needed,
 - ✓ Move village equipment to town Garage or build new village garage at the sewer treatment facility (Cost: free to \$?)
 - ✓ Expand the A&B municipal lot to 45 spaces (Cost: \$200,000 – new five year loan)