

**Protection Committee Report  
July 1, 2016**

**Parking at Vaughan Woods Trailhead**

Chief Nason requested a meeting of the Protection Committee to discuss parking issues that have arisen at the Vaughan Woods trailhead on Litchfield Road. Ellen Gibson (Executive Director of the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead) described the significant increase in public recreational use over the past few years. This increase led to several days this spring where parking extended well beyond their small parking area down Litchfield Road on both the north and south sides as well as along Summer and the section of Litchfield Road west of Middle Street. During this period over 250 people were counted on the Vaughan Woods trails in an hour.

While the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead want the property to continue to be accessible for the public they have concerns about the safety of on-street parking in this area due to the narrow road and sweeping blind curves, as well as the impact on neighbors on Litchfield Road and Summer Street. The organization has done a lot of work this spring and summer to expand and improve the parking area at the trailhead but there is limited off-street space available. The current area accommodates 12-14 cars. Chief Nason agrees with the concerns and outlined two options to move forward:

1. Ordinance change to eliminate parking on the north and south sides of Litchfield road west to the turnpike, and both sides of Second Street, Summer Street, and Middle Street to Grove Street (see diagram drafted by Chief Nason). The streets would be posted no parking.
2. Increase enforcement of existing ordinance that that prevents obstruction of the road.

There is a second trailhead for the Vaughan Woods adjacent to the High School tennis courts. The Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead currently has permission from the Superintendent to utilize parking at the High School after school hours and during the summer. The organization is working on ways to notify people of this option.

**After discussion the Committee unanimously endorsed option #1 and recommends that the Council support an ordinance change** (see draft ordinance change proved by Chief Nason).

**Parking Enforcement Position**

Chief Nason briefed the Committee on how the City currently enforces parking. Enforcement is worked into every shift but can be bypassed when more immediate concerns arise. This can make it seem inconsistent and enforcement at times ends up focusing on parking issues that are the result of complaint calls. In 2015 the city received \$3,000 in parking ticket receipts and \$1,100 from Res parking permits.

The Chief has proposed a new summer (April-September) part-time (20 hours per week) parking enforcement position to focus on the issue. In addition to enforcement this position would allow the

city to gather data about problem parking issues. The cost would be \$6,000. The draft 2017 budget includes a line item for this position.

**The Committee unanimously endorsed the creation of a new part-time summer enforcement position and supports the Finance Committee's line-item for the position.**

# Recommended No Parking Areas

***“On the south side of the Litchfield Road from Second Street to Middle Street”***

***“On both sides of Summer Street from the Litchfield Road to Grove Street”***

***“On both sides of Second Street from the Litchfield Road to Grove Street”***

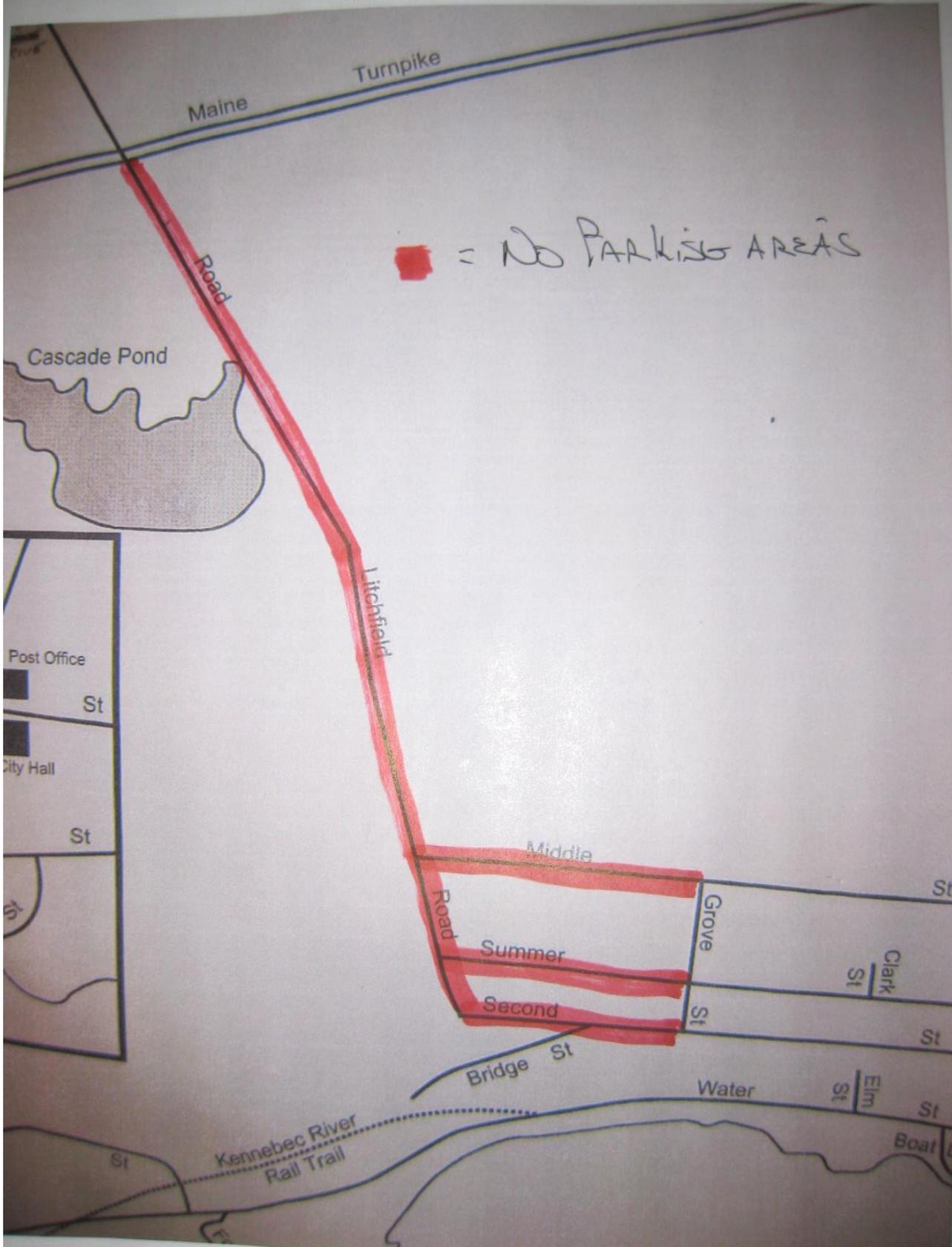
(We could go to the R/R tracks because there’s no available parking on either side beyond Grove Street)

***“On the Litchfield Road from Middle Street to the Maine Turnpike overpass”***

(I went to the turnpike bridge because of the possibly of cars parking along this strip)

***“On both sides of Middle Street from the Litchfield Road to Grove Street”***

(We could go all the way to Chestnut Street because there’s no available parking on either side beyond Grove Street)



■ = NO PARKING AREAS

Maine Turnpike

Road

Cascade Pond

Litchfield

Middle

Summer

Second

Grove

Clark

St

Elm

Boat

Kennebec River Rail Trail

Bridge

Water

Post Office

St

City Hall

St

St

St

St

St