

City Council Workshop

Agenda Item #1

June 12, 2017

Paper Street App Demo

A “paper street” is defined as a proposed, unaccepted way or an unaccepted way laid out on a subdivision plan recorded in the Registry of Deeds. As of September 29, 1997, all municipalities in Maine were required to have either accepted or proactively extended their right to accept any of these papers streets in their communities. Failure to do so meant that these paper streets were vacated, pursuant to 23 MRSA §3032.

In 1997, the City of South Portland undertook the daunting process of reviewing these papers streets to determine which ones, if any, the City would want to accept. The review process consisted of Planning Board review, numerous neighborhood meetings, notices to abutters, and press articles. Although many were reviewed, the City was unable to complete the review for approximately eighty paper streets. Consequently, Planning Director Tex Haeuser recommended extending the deadline for up to twenty years – through September 2017 – to complete these reviews. Also at that time, the Planning Board recommended reserving limited interest in portions of approximately fifteen paper streets.

As we are now nearing the end of the twenty-year extension, City staff have begun the process of obtaining input from staff and members of the public about the remaining paper streets so that City Council can decide how to proceed. One of the methods of obtaining public feedback will be through a web-based application. Director Haeuser and Planner Steve Puleo will be present to provide Councilors an overview of this app in advance of its release to the general public.



City Manager