

## **All-Day Commuter Parking on Cottage Farm Residential Streets**

This is Andy Moulton's report on his discussion with town Transportation Engineer Kurt Fraser and Transportation Administrator Todd Kirrane on Monday afternoon, April 5, 2010.

### **1. HISTORY.**

Three years ago, there was a full set of public hearings on new parking permits. The appropriate time for public input into this program was three years ago, during the public hearings. One new program was to provide residents with permits to park on their streets. Another new program, the Commercial Onstreet Parking Permit, was to provide businesses with parking permits. This document is about this second new program.

Two years ago, the town implemented the new parking permits. The town has been slowly applying the program to various neighborhoods. Cottage Farm is the last neighborhood to participate in this new program.

### **2. THE PARKING PERMIT**

Up to 40% of any Brookline street within one quarter-mile of a business's commercial area is allocated for these parking permits. I asked Todd Kirrane if the 40% figure would increase. Todd thought not.

The intent is for use by commuters. The attached application clearly states that, with the permit, the commuter can park from 8:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m., Monday through Saturday on the specified street. Note that a car with a permit is exempt from the rule about parking from 8:00 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. and is exempt from the rule about parking for more than two hours.

3. The 8:00 a. m. start time is probably not enforceable in any meaningful way. The commuters on Chilton and Churchill Streets always arrive before 8:00 a. m. and leave their cars for the day. The time at which they leave their cars is presumably dictated by their own arrival time at their daily jobs, not by the specific language of the permit application. The intent of the program is to provide a convenient way for a commuter to park on the street and then to go to work.

4. I asked Todd Kirrane about the reasons for the 8:00 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. parking ban. The town does not want a commuter who lives outside

Brookline (presumably the suburbs) and who works outside Brookline (presumably Boston) to park and then to take the T. The 8:00 a. m. to 10:00 a. m. ban does not apply to these commuters because they may live outside Brookline, but they work in Brookline.

5. Because of the full set of public hearings, there is little chance that we can influence the policy or its enforcement now.

6. Because this program is in force throughout the town, there is little chance of an exception for a single street (such as Churchill Street) or a single neighborhood (such as Cottage Farm).