

Mayor Tracey Furman

**Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle**



**Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter**

Parking Task Force Meeting
December 2, 2024, 6pm
Kensington Town Hall

Attendees: Ann Lichter, Conor Crimmins, Judy Beach-Uhlman, Sandy Wasden Eli Sola-Sole, Tyler Whitmore, Nora Belt, Courtney Thornton, Susan Gerson, Joe Campbell.

1. Introductions

- Task Force members introduced themselves and shared why they wanted to contribute to the Parking Task Force.

2. Goals

- We reviewed the goals outlined for the Task Force:

The recent growth of Kensington's commercial district has brought many benefits to our town, including new businesses, jobs, and services. However, this growth has also increased demand for parking, sometimes causing congestion and conflicts between residents and visitors, especially where commercial areas meet residential streets.

To address these challenges, the Mayor and Town Council have established a Parking Task Force. Its mission is to:

- 1. Research and analyze current parking capacity and needs, especially on the town's southeast quadrant.*
- 2. Develop recommendations for the Town Council on managing current and future parking demand.*
- 3. Identify strategies to alleviate parking congestion and conflicts, and improve mobility in Kensington.*

The Parking Task Force will consider short-, medium-, and long-term solutions to ensure our town can accommodate growth while maintaining its character and livability.

- The group discussed “mobility” and noted this refers to all forms of mobility - cars, public transportation, pedestrian, bicyclists and others being able to move through town and access businesses and residences and that parking goals should bear this in mind.
- The Parking Task Force will coordinate with the Town’s Mobility Committee (includes Pedestrian and Bike Access and Safety Work Group) but there is a clear separation of jurisdiction between the two groups.
- Susan Gerson noted the need to plan for future parking needs (e.g., Warner Circle redevelopment).
- Eli Sola-Sole noted the need to have parking plans for big events, and to deal with parking challenges and temporary cones near Tacos Don Perez, Kensington Row Bookshop and Kensington Service Center.

- Joe Campbell noted that convening a town meeting for residents and businesses wishing to offer specific examples of parking-related problems and complications could be beneficial.

3. Timeline

- Initial timeline for the Task Force is June 2025; scoped this way because new Town Council year begins July 1st so it could change plans.
- It's likely that the Council would expect Parking Task Force work to continue beyond June, but it could serve as an "off ramp" for Task Force members.
- Reality is this work will probably take up to two years, considering the group will work on many different things and likely need to engage an external consultant.

4. Establishing Task Force norms and meeting preferences

- This is ad hoc volunteer committee.
- Co-chairs Crimmins and Lichter will do their best to establish agendas before meetings. Meeting dates/times will be posted on Town Calendar and minutes will also be published online.
- Task Force members discussed basic norms including:
 - Make room for all Task Force members to participate
 - Treat one another with respect
 - Work to keep meetings focused and lasting about an hour
 - If materials are sent out in advance, read them before the meeting so you come prepared to contribute
 - Conor will typically send out calendar invites for meetings
- Preferred meeting time will be by 7:30pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays
- Next meeting will be January 7th at 7:30pm at Town Hall

5. Tasks for next meeting/Next Steps

- Conor will send out calendar invite for next meeting
- Conor will send out 2025 Financial Disclosure Form in January (forms cover a calendar year)
- Conor will coordinate getting a briefing from County parking experts to share info on the latest research, policies, programs that may be relevant to us
- Conor and Joe will work together to draft proposed principles for the Task Force
 - Email Conor suggestions
- Task Force members will begin thinking about tasks we may want to enlist a consultant to help with. One of our first tasks will be creating a scope of work for a parking consultant.
 - The group discussed for example, doing an inventory of existing spaces, including those under private control, and examples of parking districts.