**Camden Parking Study**

**Public Meeting #1: Comments/Summary Notes**

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Commercial trucks that double park and unload on Main Street and Bayview Street turn those two-way streets into one-way streets.

Visitors expect to pay a reasonable parking fee for access to the waterfront at the public landing. There is a hidden, yet high cost associated with free parking.

The amount of 2-hour parking is very inflexible. It doesn’t work for everyone.

An elected official reported that she received facebook and email messages from constituents who are both in favor of paid parking for Camden and against it. Some opposed to it believe the size of the problem does not warrant implementation of paid parking. Some believe it would be inconvenient, annoying, and ugly. Some believe it would push people to park in neighborhoods.

The results of this study should help educate people about the cost of doing nothing with respect to parking changes – i.e. the status quo.

Any parking solutions, including those involving pricing, must consider socio-economic equity issues.

Proper placement of bike racks throughout town is important.

Any parking improvements that also reduce traffic provide a double bonus.

Written comments

**From:** Barb C Ohland <barb.callanan@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2021 9:19 AM
**To:** Select Board Distribution Group <tocselectboard@camdenmaine.gov>
**Subject:** Parking

I think there should be paid parking at the town landing, the lot behind French & Brawn and next to Camden Pizza at least... and  ***significantly***higher fees for violating the 2 hour time limit.  Repeat offenders should pay even SIGNIFICANTLY higher fees.

I think it would be wise for Camden to hire an additional parking patrol person in the busy months ( paid for by higher parking fees/violations)

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Barb

**From:** Isabel Crane <crane22i@mtholyoke.edu>
**Sent:** Monday, October 04, 2021 9:53 PM
**To:** Select Board Distribution Group <tocselectboard@camdenmaine.gov>
**Subject:** Parking (ATTN: John Burke)

Dear Mr. Burke,

I am responding to the Village Soup article on parking spaces in Camden. Thank you in advance for your work on this subject.

I work in downtown Camden at Zoot Coffee and use all-day parking lots frequently, as well as 15-30 minute and 2 hour parking spaces on my days off.

I have noticed over the years that the Knox Mills parking lots have become increasingly privatized, most recently, with a new sign specifying exactly who can park there (all others WILL be towed), and 3-4 years ago, when one of the parking lots was completely blocked off to the public seemingly without notice. It is frustrating because the Knox Mills parking lots are rarely full, as you probably found in your survey.

Although the Knox Mills parking lot is closer to where I work, I recently started parking in the town lot by the fire department because of the signs. I wonder why the town is not working more with private lots (Knox Mills and others that exist) to permit more parking in these areas. Or perhaps, given this article, it seems the owners of the lots are unwilling to work with the town.

On a slightly different subject, I believe that free all day parking should be available for people who work downtown. I would be against meters in all-day lots, though not necessarily for 15 minute - 2 hour parking in highly trafficked areas.

We need to keep Camden as affordable as possible for workers, especially those in the service industry and tourism/hospitality sectors. Otherwise, we will push these folks out despite the increasing need for more workers as we adapt to unprecedented levels of tourism and development of the area.

Thank you for your work on the subject.

Best,

Isabel Crane

Manager, Zoot Coffee