



## The Laconia Daily Sun

### Belmont looking at adding as many as 30 downtown parking spaces

By Gail Ober  
May 03, 2011 12:00 am

BELMONT — Selectmen last night unanimously gave the go-ahead to the town's police chief to draft a new downtown parking ordinance that could add as many as 30 spaces to the village area.

In his presentation, Chief Vincent Baiocchetti said the Village District currently has 42 parking spaces. Two are reserved for handicapped parking and 12 are restricted to town use only — leaving 28 spaces for visitors, customers of the downtown shops and residents without on-site parking.

His initial proposal, which would be subject to a public hearing and the approval of selectmen, would add 15 or 16 spaces in the municipal lot, add eight parallel parking spaces to two sections of Mill Street, and create four spaces in Nelson Court.

He also recommended restricting the upper and lower Fuller Street parking spaces to municipal employees only between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and adding a one-hour limit to the existing spaces on Main Street and a portion of the municipal lot Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Selectmen asked Baiocchetti to conduct the study last month after some of the Main Street merchants and library customer brought some parking issues to Selectboard Chair Jon Pike.

While the board was overall pleased with the initial recommendation, Selectman David Morse objected to providing municipally-maintained spaces for the tenants of one downtown building without any parking.

"Why don't we add those four spaces to the (municipal properties) sale," said Morse.

"I don't recommend that," replied Baiocchetti who noted that the people who live in the village without private parking are always going to find some place to park and in his opinion, this solution, restricting parking to municipal employees during the day, would be the easiest to enforce.

Selectman Rob Cormier agreed with the chief, saying allowing private residential parking in four paces out of 72 available was fine with him.

"I like zero out of 68," said Morse.

Another issue raised by Morse and to which Cormier agreed was creating less spaces in the "green space" on the road leading to the library and the gazebo.

"I think 15 spaces is too aggressive," Morse said. Cormier suggested adding four new spaces for the present and reconsidering adding more in the future.

Baiocchetti said he would draft the proposed ordinance and return to selectmen who will review the second proposal and schedule the public hearing.

An advertisement for a 2010 Land Rover LR4. The top text reads "2010 LAND ROVER LR4 CAPABLE. VERSATILE. ATTAINABLE." Below this, it says "LEASE FOR \$699/month\* \$2995 DUE AT SIGNING, 36 MOS LIMITED TERM". Underneath, it says "BUY FOR 0.9% APR\*\* LIMITED TERM". A central image shows a gold Land Rover LR4. To the right of the car, it says "Visit your local retailer". At the bottom left, there is a "DISCLAIMERS" link. At the bottom right, there is the Land Rover logo.