Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The April 21, 2006 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- Steve Mouras briefly reviewed some of the issues related to management of state vehicles. He indicated that this was the third meeting to gather data and input from affected units around campus. This meeting focuses on the long-term parking of state vehicles in high-demand lots such as Cheatham/Engel and Derring. The guests were then asked to share their thoughts and concerns.

- Don Orth, Head of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, indicated that he was open to the idea of university-wide policy on long-term parking of state vehicles. As a department head, Don already asks those in his area not to do this but enforcement is left up to him. Department-owned vehicles do have a sign-out log so it is possible to check to see who last used one. Since multiple individuals use the vehicles it is also important that they be left in a consistent location so other drivers can readily find them later. (Steve Mouras indicated that the overflow lot near the Duckpond is the best place for this purpose at this time.)

- Don also stressed that it is important for vans, four-wheel drive vehicles, and occasionally even buses to be able to park in the lot for short periods since these vehicles are regularly used for instructional field trips. As long as reasonable accommodation is made for such needs he welcomed having clearer rules for long-term parking and not needing to handle enforcement himself.

- Bob Shaffer, Charles Nettleton Professor of Forestry, echoed many of sentiments expressed by Don Orth. Bob also spoke about the need of faculty and staff to travel back and forth during the day from the Brooks Forest Products Center in the Corporate Research Center. Don also spoke about the high demand for parking at remote facilities that the College of Natural Resources operates near campus. Use of alternative vehicles like golf carts or gators may provide a more economical way to meet some transport needs.

- Wyatt Sasser asked about the impact of Latham Hall and other buildings that are soon to be built in that part of campus. This of course will only increase pressure on existing lots for parking. Steve Mouras indicated that he plans to gate the lot at Cheatham/Engel for faculty and staff use only. An analysis of the area will be done...
to determine the number of service vehicle spots needed and a few more will likely be added. Some other changes to the layout may also be made to increase capacity.

- The Geosciences department was unable to send a representative to the meeting but an e-mail from Dr. James Spotilla was circulated. He indicated that the department has three state vehicles at this time, one of which is regularly used and two of which are used more occasionally for field trips and the like. He stressed the need to be able to park in the Derring Hall lot when loading students and their gear.

- Steve Mouras thanked the above guests for their input. Since this was the final meeting of the transportation and parking committee for this academic year Steve indicated that his office would prepare some draft proposals based on all the input gathered for the committee to review when it resumes in the fall.

- The committee briefly discussed the issue of the intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street. Steve Mouras indicated that the initial analysis has been done and that the design will be finished soon. Since the existing roadbed is wide enough no construction will be needed. The last part of Spring Road will be marked to add separate right and left turn lanes.

- Josh Sarfity’s suggestion for the timing of Blacksburg Transit schedules during evening hours was briefly discussed. Bringing the BT Schedule into closer alignment with class times would help reduce wait times and might boost ridership. One challenge, however, is that not all professors adhere to the standard times for classes.

- Josh Sarfity reported that he has observed that Perry Lot 2 is now getting more use by faculty and staff but still has excess capacity. Steve Mouras responded the construction of the ICTAS building near Durham Hall and the proposed new surge building in the Lower Stanger lot will lead to more changes in parking in that vicinity.

- Patrick Donohoe again asked for a volunteer to serve as recorder for the committee next year. Since no one volunteered he will follow up by e-mail.

New Business:
- Carolyne Dudding asked about parking for dining hall employees at West End Market. On the weekends the Cheatham/Engel lot is usually packed with students. Steve Mouras indicated that other dining halls on campus do have a small number of restricted spaces and something similar may need to be done here. He will have Richard McCoy investigate the matter further.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.
Next meeting will be in Fall 2006, time and date TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder