

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 30, 2013

Rockport Police Station, Community Room

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Kris Van der Hart, Stephanie Rauseo, Ann Rosone-Franco, Eric Park, Paul Weiss, Justin Mierz, Laura Deluca

Meeting opened: 1:06 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 26, 2013 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes; McCarthy seconded; they voted to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2013 meeting. Sanders did not attend the February 26th meeting; therefore one abstention.

Evans Way: Parisi and McCarthy completed a site visit and recommend signage to prohibit parking on the right side to enable free passage of emergency vehicles onto Evans Field. Ms. Van der Hart is concerned about the trash left after ballgames and parked cars that block access to the fire hydrant. Parisi said a surveyor is needed to clarify the property line between Smith's and the Town; the Town cannot regulate parking on private property. Another purpose of the survey is to recommend placement of handicap parking spaces and delineate parking near the fire hydrant. Parisi also plans to resurface the street after the survey is complete; currently, he will place a trash barrel on the ball field.

Speed Radar Signs on Route 127: This Committee must complete a speed survey and recommend a location for placement of the speed radar sign on Route 127 prior to a representative of MA DOT agreeing to purchase the sign. Parisi and McCarthy will do a site visit for sign location; McCarthy will complete the speed survey and Parisi will then compile the packet of information for MA DOT. Mr. Park and Ms. Deluca would like the Town to purchase signs for Granite Street, by Doctor's Run and on South Street. A discussion of vendors and products available followed. This subject will be placed on the agenda again following the compilation of information.

Atlantic Avenue: The Board of Selectmen sent a letter to a resident requesting removal of the basketball hoop from Town property. Mr. Mierz thanked the Committee for their perseverance in this matter.

Beach Street: Area residents are disrupted by the noise and activity of scuba divers who park on Beach Street. Sanders reported that state statute allows divers during daylight hours; no

person is denied beach access. Ms. Rauseo asked about permits issued more frequently in the past; those permits are issued by the DPW for classes. McCarthy said that many groups are not classes. The merits of night diving were discussed; police groups often use the area for training purposes at night. Night diving cannot be denied without the correct signage posted. Ms. Rauseo's quiet enjoyment of her property is being denied by the noise of the divers. She suggested the solution to the problem is in a change to the parking. Ms. Rosone-Franco said the divers creating a hazard on the sidewalks, with parking and with traffic in the area. McCarthy reported similar problems on Cathedral Avenue and at Old Garden Beach. Sanders made a commitment to resolving problems in this area. She plans to bring this problem to the attention of the Board of Selectmen and recommend developing a permit that will include: 1) the time of day diving is allowed, 2) length of time for each group, 3) rates for each permit, 4) enforcement policies. The first step in the solution is to post signage prohibiting night diving. McCarthy suggested that the proposed parking meter changes for Front and Back beach will impact this problem. There is a noise ordinance in the general by-laws. McCarthy encouraged the residents to contact the police department when problems occur; he works with the harbor masters on problems related to lobster stealing. He agreed to update his department on this discussion. McCarthy and Parisi agreed to do a site visit to 56-58 Beach Street and check the delineation of compact car spaces. Ms. Rosone-Franco complimented the DPW for the consistent trash removal and clean-up in the area.

Economic Development Committee: Parisi moved and Sanders seconded support of the concept of a Wayfinding Project; it was voted unanimously. If the Board of Selectmen approves the project, continued discussion in this committee will be needed on possible routes, placement and type of signage.

Old Garden Beach: Parisi reported a resident's concern about the lack of delineated handicap parking at Old Garden Beach. He agreed to do a site visit with McCarthy to recommend placement of the handicap space.

Recommendations to the Board of Selectmen: This committee is making the following parking recommendations to the Board of Selectmen:

1. Parking meter rates:

\$1.00 per hour on T-Wharf, Mt. Pleasant Street by Harvey Park., Dock Square, Main Street to Beach Street, Bearskin Neck and School Street.

\$2.00 per hour on Beach Street

\$.50 per hour on High Street, Broadway, Main Street from Beach Street to Five Corners, Mt. Pleasant Street beyond High Street.

McCarthy moved; Sanders seconded and the vote was unanimous to recommend the above listed rates to the Board of Selectmen.

2. Time limits for using a parking meter:

2 Hours: T-Wharf down Mt. Pleasant through Dock Square up Main Street to Beach Street, top of Bearskin Neck, and School Street to Broadway.

4 Hours: Beach Street

5 Hours: All other meters

McCarthy moved; Parisi seconded and the vote was unanimous to recommend the above listed time limits for using the parking meters to the Board of Selectmen.

3. Hours of enforcement for parking meters:

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Beach Street – 12 hours daily

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on all other meters – 10 hours daily

Sanders moved; McCarthy seconded and the vote was unanimous to recommend the above listed hours of enforcement of the parking meters to the Board of Selectmen.

4. Usage of the Town Lot was recommended for further study; Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and the vote was unanimous to forward this to the Board of Selectmen.

T-Wharf: The No Parking 1 a.m. to 4 a.m. signs have been placed on T-Wharf.

Adjournment: Parisi moved and McCarthy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:22 p.m.