

Wednesday, September 14, 2016  
DPW Commissioners

7:00 pm Meeting called to order

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Gardner moved to approve the 8/24/16 and 8/31/16 minutes, seconded by Chairman Reed, Vote: 2-0.

Commissioner Sena arrived at 7:20pm.

Open Session:

T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, spoke about the list of agenda items for the upcoming workshop with the Board of Selectmen. He questioned if the building study included anything about the structural integrity of the Pigeon Cove Fire Station. The Commissioners commented that the building study has not been released as a finished document; it is still being revised.

Director Parisi spoke on the Sandpiper parking expansion on South St. It was discussed at the Conservation Commission meeting for a determination if it could be added to a Notice of Intent. There was a lot of discussion from neighbors. It is recommended that this not go forward. Director Parisi said he will be taking this to the Board of Selectmen. Jim Bates, 192 South St, said he objects to the process; they were surprised to see surveyors out there. They were hoping to be involved in the process. An objection is that the parking is a detriment to the neighborhood. The Conservation Commission and the Traffic Committee are not in favor. It was stated that it doesn't fit the roadway widths, and doesn't fit the neighborhood. Chairman Reed inquired if a circle could be added so cars could turn around easily, that might be better.

7:15 New Business:

Parker Street Retaining Wall: J. Parisi has done some research; 4' long blocks, 16" high with varying depths. He said it's a relatively simple install, if you have excavating machinery and manpower. The costs are the stone, drainage pipe, and permit, probably around \$20,000 outside of the budgeted resources in-house. J. Parisi said he didn't price out any fence; then the sidewalk would need to be rebuilt. It would be approximately 400' of asphalt. Instead of an asphalt walk on Parker Street, it might make sense to have concrete down there now. Put back the granite curbing and the asphalt. A construction easement would be necessary and maybe a permanent easement if there is future work to be done on this wall. We have more work to do; J. Parisi will meet with Mr. Sears to explain the plan.

Increased Water Restrictions: DEP sent letter that recommends full water ban of non-essential use because of limited sources of water. Commissioner Gardner said Cape Pond is a water supply but it's an eco-system. A complete water ban is required.

Commissioner Gardner moved to go to a complete water ban with no non-essential water use pending advertising in in the Gloucester Times, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 3-0.

Transfer Station Rules & Regulations Review:

PAYT Presentation: S. Kashida presented from DEP; she said she is responsible for 39 communities, including Rockport, E. Boston, Revere, Nahant, Haverhill, etc. The town applied for a Technical Assistance Grant and was awarded 80 hrs. of assistance. 68% enforce trash limit 3 barrels, 5 days/week with no limit with flat fee sticker. Essex, Middleton, Nahant and Chelsea don't have any limits. The goal is to Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) Rockport has 1801 trash pounds/household. PAYT avg. is 1,073 or 40% less, 1,407 is the average, 22% less.

PAYT benefits: reduce water disposal, provides equitable solution for all, traffic volume decrease, reduction in illegal use and easier to monitor.

Comparison Communities: Acton 2015 saw a 35-40% trash reduction, Brewster 2013 reduced by 47%, in 2010 Littleton reduced theirs by 57%, and Sandwich in 2012 42-50%, 2014 35% savings.

SMART in Acton, implemented in 2015, 36% reduction in trash year #1, 26% increase in paper first year, 6% decrease co-mingled container in first year.

There are 3 sizes of available bags to purchase, 30% of stickers are PAYT, the small bags cost \$.40, medium (15 gall) are \$.80, the large is 37.5 gallon and they cost \$1.70.

Selectperson Campbell said this is a hot button issue and should be put to the residents.

Commissioner Reed said it is too expensive to do curbside pickup in town. Manchester is now doing it cheaper. They do food waste collection and they negotiated a good price.

Commissioner Gardner said he thinks Rockport is a costly program. We are open more and longer hours; we accept unlimited amounts of trash with little oversight. We accept construction debris, and oversee a swapshop.

If we really looked at our total costs of the operation we are fairly high. We have a traffic and policing problem. There are some things short of PAYT, inspecting the trash, creating a dual track, enforcing the necessity of everything being in a bag. This is an inconvenience for most people. No matter what we do, it is going to annoy people. Commissioner Sena's idea, the park n'ride, the pickup road, if we eliminated the road you drive in, the road 15' and then the buffer between berm and the dumpsters 8' that gives 20-25', build concrete pads further out (shift them out), shut down the swap shop or have volunteers run it; it doesn't work as a DPW function.

Director Parisi said a PAYT task force would be helpful for information including safety and flow.

9:10 adjourn

**Tickler List**

Cell tower lease funds

DPW Facility

Sewer use regulations

Plowing of Private Roads

Transfer Station Redesign

**Next Meetings:** Wed., 10/5/16 and Wed., 1/25/17 at 7pm in the Police Station Community Room.