

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In Attendance: Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders, Jon Horvath

Guests: Katie Serpa, Tom Mikus, Zee Seppala, Jenna Marie Bazillion

Meeting Opened: 1:34 p.m.

Minutes of February 25, 2016 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept; Horvath seconded and voted unanimously.

Granite Street, Railroad Avenue and King Street – Intersection safety:

Ms. Bazillion expressed concern about safety in this intersection. The problem is worse now due to the construction at the bank which is causing limited visibility. The bus stop safety is the primary concern. Horvath agreed with the assessment of the problem and has been increasing the patrols in the area when possible. He encouraged residents to call the department when cars park in the crosswalks. Parisi explained that the design of the intersection is problematic with the large crosswalk. Redesign of the intersection would be an expensive capital improvement project. Additional safety signage in the area was discussed. Ms. Bazillion asked about the possibility and process of a resident donation to fund the signage. The Committee decided to do a site visit and discuss the recommendations at the following meeting.

Granite Street by Halibut State Park – Safety and speed: Ms. Serpa is concerned about the speed used by drivers coming from Gloucester along this part of Granite Street. She lives and walks in this area with her family and is concerned for their safety when walking along the street. She reminded the group that Senator Tarr's office is working on the funding to add a sidewalk on the state portion of Granite Street. The Committee discussed adding a flashing speed detection sign in the area, and agreed to do a trial of the flashing sign. The permanent signs are a capital expense and would need to be included and approved in the next budget cycle.

Smith Street by the American Legion – Handicap parking: The Committee received a request to add a handicap parking space on Smith Street by the American Legion. Currently, the handicap space is on Beach Street and not convenient for those entering the Legion. The Committee discussed adding or changing a handicap space in the area and plan to do a site visit before making a recommendation.

Bradley Wharf – Handicap parking: The Committee received a request to add a handicap parking space on Bradley Wharf. The Committee will do a site visit prior to making a recommendation for a handicap parking space in the area.

New Business:

South Street – Signage: Mr. Mikus reported observing inconsistent speed signage on South Street in the area between Marmion Road and Thatcher Road. The Committee agreed to check the existing signage for consistency.

Halibut Point State Park – Street lights: Mr. Mikus asked about the brightness of the street lights near Halibut Point State Park. The Astronomy Club uses telescopes in the area and the bright lights can interfere with visibility. Parisi directed him to National Grid.

Pending Items:

Phillip Avenue - Speed: The Committee plans to do a speed study after Memorial Day to prepare a recommendation to the Mass DOT to decrease the speed on the street.

Handicap Parking – Procedure for adding spaces: The Committee discussed the procedure to change current parking spaces to handicap spaces. Handicap parking spaces were added to the Traffic Rules and Regulations by the Board of Selectmen in 2015. The Committee will review of the Board of Selectmen’s minutes to clarify the procedure prior to changing the spaces.

Adjournment: Horvath moved to adjourn at 2:47 p.m.; Parisi seconded and it was voted unanimously.