

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Judy Murray, Kris VanderHart, Gerry Davis, Joe Cassia, Peter Gove, Beth Sullivan, Claire Marotta.

Meeting opened: 1:33 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the November 5, 2013 Meeting: McCarthy moved to accept the minutes; Parisi seconded the motion; the vote to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

Oakes Lane: Mr. Cassia reported significant difficulty with the signage to locate his home and problems with multiple delivery services. GPS does not accurately direct to Oakes Lane. McCarthy agreed with the presentation and reported a history of problems with emergency vehicles locating specific houses on the street quickly. Mr. Gove provided historical data and reminded the group of a 1990's Land Court Case involving this street. He agreed to review his records and provide this committee with the documentation. Sanders questioned the Town's responsibility for providing signage on a private road. Parisi will clarify this issue; this is further complicated because part of Oakes Lane is a private road on public land. In 2000, the resident's requested that Oakes Lane become a public road but the Town refused to accept this request. Parisi will review the plans, deeds, and court documents. Sanders told Mr. Cassia that if Oakes Lane is a private road, permission of the abutters is needed prior to the installation of signage. The group discussed changing the name of a section of the road to ease the process of locating specific houses. If this is a private road the abutters may request a name change in a letter to the Board of Selectmen; the letter should include several possible names agreeable to all abutters. Mr. Gove will coordinate this discussion among the residents of the street. Parisi will review the historical documentation and assist in clarifying responsibilities of the Town and the residents of this private road.

Summit Avenue Bus Stop: Parisi and McCarthy completed a site visit. McCarthy reported a safety problem with parents parking on Squam Road while waiting for the elementary school bus. Ms. Murray, school bus coordinator, agreed to write a letter to the involved parents reminding them of the safety related issues. Ms. Sullivan reported a problem with speeding on Summit Avenue and Granite and a problem with cars not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk at this intersection. She asked for increased police enforcement of traffic regulations in this area. McCarthy observed that the utility pole at the end of Summit Avenue blocks visibility; lighting is poor in the area. He reminded the committee that the speed radar sign is

planned for placement at the intersection of Doctor's Run and Granite Street. Sanders asked about the use of a cautionary sign in the area; Parisi will review the need for increased lighting.

Evans Way: Parisi reported that an improvement plan has been developed; a survey has been completed to delineate Town land in the area of Evans Field. Brush has been cleared; the fire hydrant is now more visible and a stone wall has been installed. Repaving will be scheduled. Ms. Sullivan is pleased with the work done to date; she wants parking to be limited to emergency vehicles and handicap parking by the ball field. She is concerned about the lack of turnaround space for parking at the entrance to Evans Field. Ms. VanderHart expressed concern about the trailer and mower parked at the entrance to the field. Parisi explained that this belonged to the volunteers assisting with the maintenance of the field. He agreed to discuss alternative storage sites with them. Sanders suggested involving the Garden Club with the beautification of the Evans Way entrance to the field. Improvements in this area will continue and be reviewed by this committee. A plan for designating parking spaces will be developed by this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

15 South Street/Caleb's Lane: Ms. Marotta is concerned about work being done on Caleb's Lane road by a resident. Sanders explained that Caleb's Lane is a private road and that resolving this issue is the responsibility of the owners; the Committee does not have jurisdiction on this matter.

Workshop Meeting: Sanders suggested that the next meeting be devoted to preparing material for presentation to the Board of Selectmen. Topics will include proposed "Stop" signs, changing the location of the CATA bus stop on Broadway, regulation changes to include handicap parking spaces, compact car parking and a list of streets where skateboarding is prohibited.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2014, 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:30 p.m.