

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Rockport Police Station, Community Room

In attendance: Tom McCarthy, Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders

Guests: Paul Bryant, Zee Seppala, Carol Linsky, Kay Starr, Rose Rash, David Rash.

Meeting opened: 1:06 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 25, 2013 Meeting: McCarthy moved to accept the minutes; Parisi seconded; the vote to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

Granite Street: McCarthy reported an increased police presence in the area. The speed survey has been completed; it did not show an extraordinary amount of speeding in the area, the public's perception may be deceptive due to the curve in the road. Currently, one speed sign has been installed and another has been ordered.

Beach Street: Parisi reported that the "Compact Car" signs have been installed.

Caleb's Lane: This is a private way and this committee has not received any further communication from the residents.

Intersection of Beach and Main Streets: A site visit was completed. Parisi reported that this is a complicated site due to the slope of the roads. Major reconstruction is needed in the area and he plans to review the problems with the consulting group working on Dock Square. The committee will consider a temporary "Stop" sign first and then progress to a discussion about the need for crosswalks and handicap curb cuts.

Bearskin Neck: The Committee plans to conduct another site visit to review signage for clarity and safety. The Committee also discussed posting speed limits signs on the Bearskin Neck. Sanders asked that McCarthy prepare the necessary documentation for Mass DOT to reconsider the posted speed limit on Bearskin Neck.

Evans Way: Parisi is exploring funding sources to pay for paving this area.

Broadway: The committee received a letter from a citizen concerned about the limited visibility when exiting a driveway onto Broadway when larger vehicles extend past the delineated parking space. McCarthy validated that this problem exists for many homes and business owners with driveways in this area. The police will monitor parking problems on Broadway related to larger vehicles overextending the designated space.

Rowe Avenue Extension: Mr. Bryant reported problems with people parking and blocking this private road. This street is used for parking by people swimming in the quarries. He is asking for a waiver that will allow the Town to tow vehicles parked on this street. He previously discussed the problem with the Planning Board who directed him to this committee. In the past, residents have posted “No Parking” signs on street and have removed brush to widen the pullouts along the road. The parking problems appear to be increasing. He reports that the residents of Rowe Avenue Extension are willing to sign a waiver allowing the Town to tow vehicles from their private road. McCarthy expressed concerns about public safety and emergency vehicle access to the quarries from this road and would support this action. Parisi questioned if a “No Parking – Tow Zone” area is enforceable on a private road. Parisi moved to install signage delineating tow zones provided the residents are willing to sign a waiver supporting this action. McCarthy seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously. Sanders will assist Mr. Bryant in drafting an appropriate waiver to be signed by the residents.

Parker Street: Ms. Starr reports an increase in speeding traffic on this street. Homes are close to the road; it is used by bicyclists, skateboarders and a resident in a wheelchair. Speed limit signs are not currently posted. McCarthy clarified the fundamental speed law is up to 30 mph or whatever is reasonable. McCarthy agreed to do a speed survey and submit the necessary documentation to Mass DOT to decrease the speed limit.

Mass DOT: Sanders suggested compiling the documentation on all streets the Committee has reviewed for a decrease in the speed limit and submitting one package. McCarthy agreed and also reminded the Committee that Mass DOT may choose to increase the speed limit. If the results of the speed survey do not support the request then Mass DOT will not change the speed limit. Other roads currently being reviewed include Thatcher Road, Main Street by High Street, Granite Street by Doctor’s Run, and Bearskin Neck. Parisi agreed to draft a policy for responding to resident requests for reassessing speed limits on specific streets and the use of speed boards to monitor traffic.

Stone Barn Lane: Ms. Linsky is concerned with resident safety on this narrow road; the art association’s studio opens directly onto the road and residents exiting the building are concerned about the speed of some drivers. She asked about speed bumps being installed; Parisi is opposed due to the seasonal nature of these devices. Sanders considered installing a generalized cautionary sign. A site visit to determine the appropriate placement of the signage is recommended and this item will be placed on the next agenda.

Beach Street: Ms. Rash is requesting a handicap parking space be delineated by Nate’s Restaurant. Parisi reported that this area will be under construction to revamp the sidewalk and the crosswalks. A site visit will be conducted to determine an appropriate location to incorporate the handicap parking space.

New Business:

Granite Street: Mr. Seppela expressed concern about the corner at the intersection of Granite Street and Landmark Lane. The gravel on the corner creates a danger to motorcycles in the summer and it is also a slippery area in the winter. The Committee will review this intersection for safety.

Atlantic Avenue: Mr. Tarr requested in writing that the Committee consider creating angle parking on Atlantic Avenue by the Headlands. This area is gravel. A site visit will be scheduled.

Adjournment: Parisi moved, McCarthy seconded and it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.