

Traffic and Parking Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2015
Rockport Town Hall, Conference Room A

In Attendance: Joe Parisi, Linda Sanders, Jon Horvath

Guests: Bob Cooney, Ann Cooney, Joan Smith, Jim Doyle, Zee Seppala, Kay Starr, Roy Gebhart, Larry Salo.

Meeting Opened: 1:31 p.m.

Millbrook Meadow: The site visit in Millbrook Meadow has been completed. The Committee discussed plans for handicap access from the Beach Street entrance; no barriers or challenges are anticipated. Sanders recommended applying for an Architectural Access Board handicap accessibility waiver for the King Street entrance and dam area. Parisi will follow-up with the contractor.

Pending item: Rowe Avenue Extension – The property owners on this private road completed the waiver requesting a tow zone be established on this road. Parisi and Horvath will do a site visit to determine the appropriate location for the signage which will then be installed by the DPW.

Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2015 Meeting: Parisi moved to accept the minutes; Horvath seconded; and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the September 10, 2015 minutes of the Traffic and Parking Committee.

King Street: Michael Anderson requested a curb cut on King Street to allow access for off street parking on his property. Parisi and Horvath completed a site visit and reported the loss of one parking space on the street; the construction project details were discussed with Jim Doyle, contractor for Mr. Anderson. Parisi moved to allow the curb cut on King Street, Horvath seconded and the Traffic and Parking Committee voted unanimously in favor of this request.

Atlantic Avenue: Ann Cooney requested a change to no parking on either side of Starr Island Lane; with "Tow Zone" signage. In the recent past there were problems with emergency vehicles passing through safely and blocked driveways from non-residents parking on the street. Sanders explained the process of making changes to the Traffic and Parking Regulations on private roads like Starr Island Lane. She agreed to provide a copy of the waiver used for requesting changes which Ms. Cooney will then distribute to her neighbors for their approval.

Parisi and Horvath will do a site visit to review the potential changes to the parking in the area. This item will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Parker Street: Kay Starr reported her continued concerns with the speed of traffic on this street. She had initiated the original speed study in this area which then resulted in the decrease in the speed limit. Because this is a street used by parents transporting children to the school; Ms. Starr requested increased enforcement on speed limits in the area. She also asked about making Marshall Street one way to minimize traffic from tour buses heading downtown. Horvath agreed to review the school safety issues with the police-school liaison. Location and changes to the cautionary signage was discussed by the Committee and Parisi agreed to do a site visit and propose any recommendations for location changes at the next meeting. The cost of adding a stationary speed sign was discussed.

Mt. Pleasant Street: Joan Smith discussed her plans to change the driveway location and the necessary curb cut for the driveway. Currently the property has two existing driveways. The proposed driveway would allow easier access from the car to the house for Mrs. Smith's handicap brother. Following discussion, Mrs. Smith agreed to eliminate one existing driveway thus the amount of street parking will remain unchanged on Mt. Pleasant Street. Parisi proposed changing the fence line to delineate the driveways; this will require Historic District Commission approval. Parisi moved to approve the curb cut for the new driveway and require the elimination of an existing driveway with changes in the landscaping and fencing. Horvath seconded and it was voted unanimously.

Granite Street: Roy Gebhart, 253 Granite Street, plans to build a new driveway and is requesting permission to temporarily park on Granite Street after the street parking ban has been initiated. Parisi expressed concerns about allowing street parking during a potential storm. Off street parking on town property in the area was discussed. Sanders suggested a site visit at which time this issue could be resolved.

Broadway and Mt. Pleasant Street: The new "Stop" sign is installed; the signage has been relocated to increase visibility. The Committee received a great deal of feedback on the new sign; residents are adjusting to the change. Currently, the Police Department is issuing warnings to assist in educating residents to the change.

Main Street: Site visit was completed. Parisi moved to remove two parking spaces on Main Street, the first space at the rear entrance of the Community House by the right of way and the second space on the north side of Main Street by Agawam Lane. Striping will be done to minimize incorrect parking in the area. Horvath seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously.

Phillips Avenue: The Committee received a request to discuss speeding on this street; the problem was acknowledged by the Committee members. A site visit will be done to determine if any changes in signage are required.

Safety for Children on Bicycles: A resident provided information on free bike helmets for children. The resident is concerned about children, without helmets, riding bicycles to school. Sanders clarified that this is not Traffic and Parking Committee issue. Horvath agreed to follow-up on the original request with the school superintendent. The Police Department will work with the School to increase children's safety.

New Business: Zee Seppala asked about the Board of Selectmen discussion of the winter parking ban. Sanders clarified that the Board had not received a public petition and that further discussion will occur between a liaison from the Board, DPW director and Police Chief.

Pending List:

Mass Department of Transportation: Horvath will review the documentation on the prior requests for speed limit changes and discuss issues as needed with this Committee. The new electronic speed signs will be placed by Doctor's run and Granite Street and Main Street by High Street.

Unitarian Church Parking: Horvath worked with the resident and representatives of the Church to resolve the parking issues. No issues currently.

Squam Road: Horvath reported no pattern of excessive speed observed; no changes recommended.

Railroad Avenue: Placement of the crosswalks will be reviewed prior to repaving the road.

Adjournment: Parisi moved to adjourn; Horvath seconded and it was voted unanimously at 3:10 p.m.