

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 13, 2017**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting and public forum was held on March 13, 2017 in the Auditorium of Memorial Town Hall.

Members Present: Town Planner Kenneth Buckland, Joseph Cardoza, Chair William Heaney, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Vice Chair David Menard and Police Chief Kevin Walsh. Member Howard Smith arrived at 6:08 p.m. Also present were Selectman Liaison Alan Slavin, Town Moderator Claire Smith, approximately 50 citizens and two members of the press.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Heaney.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting held on February 13, 2017 were reviewed. Motion by Member Buckland to accept the Minutes. Seconded by Vice Chair Menard. Vote: 6-0-0.

Old Business:

Viking Drive and Kennedy Lane – Temporary Parking and Traffic Control: After a brief discussion concerning implementation of traffic and parking regulations during the time the Vietnam Moving Wall is in Wareham in August 2017, Recording Secretary McGonnell asked that the matter be tabled until the next meeting as a legal issue was still pending. No Board action at this time.

Public Forum:

A public forum on the Assignment from Town Meeting Regarding Maintenance of Unapproved Ways was called to order at approximately 6:10 p.m. Chair Heaney gave an overview of the proposed bylaw revision concerning unaccepted streets. This proposed revision was drafted after input by members of a subcommittee consisting of Chair Heaney, Vice Chair Menard and Recording Secretary McGonnell, with technical assistance from Town Administrator Derek Sullivan and legal advice from Town Counsel Richard Bowen.

Chair Heaney also explained that the document is in draft form only at this time, has yet to be voted on by the Board of Road Commissioners, and requested participation from the audience as to any changes they might recommend. A slide presentation of various unaccepted streets was shown during the presentation. Chair Heaney provided statistical information relative to the Town's 977 named streets (both accepted and unaccepted), and the audience was advised that copies of the draft were available at the forum, and the draft could also be viewed on the Town's website.

Chair Heaney explained the three types of unaccepted streets, along with the Town's authority regarding all streets and requirements for acceptance of streets. During the presentation, Chair Heaney answered questions and took comments from the audience. He also detailed information relative to all portions of the proposed article concerning the revolving fund account.

Chair Heaney and Vice Chair Menard gave a brief overview of the Town's current policy of providing estimates for repairs to unaccepted streets. In each instance, the Board of Selectmen currently approves the work to be performed by Municipal Maintenance following payment of the costs by the abutters.

Following Chair Heaney's presentation, the Chair and Board Members took questions from the audience and responded to same. Among the comments, a question was raised concerning why Chapter 90 funds are not available for repairs as in past years. Town Moderator Smith indicated, from the audience, that although the Town in the past had helped maintain unaccepted streets, State requirements had changed in recent years, and Chapter 90 funds are now mandated for public ways only. Selectman Liaison Slavin confirmed this information.

Resident Edward Pacewicz spoke of his concerns and recommendations and provided the Board with written recommendations for changes to the proposed bylaw revision. Other residents voiced concerns about an assessment threshold and suggested a maximum price be considered for the amount charged to abutters.

Another resident inquired about the posting of this meeting and indicated he had difficulty obtaining information. Chair Heaney advised that the meeting was posted on the Town's website and was not an official public hearing but was a forum to provide information and obtain suggestions from the public. He further indicated that there were articles in local published media that also provided information.

A concern was raised by a resident about unaccepted ways that are inhabited primarily by summer vacationers and the impact that would have on a year-round resident on the same street. His feeling was the summer residents would not be inclined to pay for repairs and that the cost would fall to the year-round residents.

There was a question as to how emergencies would be handled by police, fire and EMS if the residents of a street opt out, and the street was inaccessible. Vice Chair Menard indicated that if the residents of a street opt out of the program, those residents should make arrangements for private snow removal. Currently, during an emergency, Municipal Maintenance is often dispatched to assist emergency responders gain access. Chief Walsh indicated that emergency calls have always been responded to by the police department, fire departments and EMS. This policy will continue with assistance from Municipal Maintenance being requested by dispatch.

A resident inquired as to why all streets in Town cannot be accepted. Chair Heaney explained they cannot be accepted unless they meet bylaw requirements and go through the acceptance process. Many streets lack the basic requirements for approval.

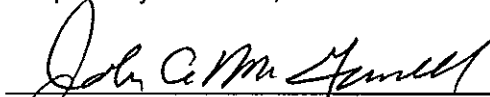
Following the forum presentation, individual Board members conversed with residents, answered questions and discussed the proposed bylaw revision.

Any Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 27, Memorial Town Hall.

Adjournment: Vice Chair Menard moved to adjourn. Seconded by Chief Walsh. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by unanimous vote at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on March 20, 2017.