

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, May 8, 2017**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on May 8, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 27 of Memorial Town Hall.

Members Present: Town Planner Kenneth Buckland, Lt. John Gerard, Chair William Heaney, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Vice Chair David Menard and Howard Smith. Also present were three members of the public. (Member Joseph Cardoza arrived at 4:04 p.m.)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Heaney.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting held on April 18, 2017 were reviewed. Motion by Member Smith to accept the Minutes. Seconded by Town Planner Buckland.
Vote: 5-0-1 (Gerard abstaining).

New Business:

Safety Hazard on Onset Avenue at South Boulevard – Obstruction of View of Passing Drivers and Pedestrians in Crosswalk Due to Delivery Trucks in “No Parking” Zone: Chair Heaney opened discussion by reminding members of the April 18, 2017 presentation by resident Tom Bicki who also provided photographs of illegally parked delivery trucks. Dr. Bicki, in addition to the prior concerns he previously addressed, advised that these safety issues might worsen because of future construction on Cranberry Highway with the potential of significant additional traffic passing through the area to avoid a highway construction zone. Chair Heaney indicated that a working group of himself, Chief Walsh, Municipal Maintenance Director Menard and Police Lt. Gerard recently viewed the area and completed measurements of Union Avenue. A tractor-trailer unit was parked temporarily in the newly-paved area where the traffic island previously existed in order to determine if there is sufficient space available to use this area for a loading/unloading zone for two parked trucks in the center of the roadway, while still allowing sufficient room for traveling vehicles and vehicles parked at an angle to curbs on both sides of the roadway. The working group determined that there is sufficient space for the loading/unloading zone.

Director Menard indicated he would like to repave the entire area on Union Avenue, but feels the temporary painted markings are sufficient for a trial period which would be evaluated at the end of the 2017 summer season. The area would be repainted after full repaving is completed. Director Menard further indicated that vehicles approaching Onset Avenue on Union Avenue would have at least 10 feet of unobstructed visibility at the intersection, even with trucks parked in the new loading/unloading zone.

Discussion followed among Board members, with members in agreement of the recommended actions for the defined borders and painted “zebra” stripes, with markings for allowance of delivery trucks only.

Business owner John Salerno of Marc Anthony's Restaurant felt the loading zone concept was generally a good plan for safety to pedestrians and passing vehicles in the area, but he questioned the safety of drivers crossing Onset Avenue while completing deliveries. He was reminded that the drivers will be using a marked crosswalk and could be assisted by seasonal police officers beginning Memorial Weekend.

Resident Marie Greig stressed that police enforcement will be needed at this location, as well as at the intersection of the Onset Avenue/East Boulevard area where parking issues also exist. Mrs. Greig also suggested possibly coning off several parking spots on Onset Avenue in the vicinity of Prospect Avenue

to assist delivery drivers, creating a situation similar to what occurs when deliveries are made to the nearby Onset Village Hardware store. Lt. Gerard agreed that this is a reasonable possibility but felt that drivers would prefer using the new dedicated zone on Union Avenue because of its closer proximity to local businesses.

Following discussion, motion was made by Town Planner Buckland, and seconded by Member Cardoza, to temporarily create a loading/unloading zone on Union Avenue with re-evaluation at the end of the 2017 summer season. Vote: 7-0-0.

After the vote, Mr. Salerno requested that a printed notice from the Town be made available regarding these changes so that he could make copies and provide them to delivery drivers. Following discussion, it was decided that this notice would be best served coming from the Police Department. Lt. Gerard indicated that he would speak with Chief Walsh and hopefully draft an advisory letter to area businesses informing them of the new loading/unloading zone.

Any Other Business:

Parking and Traffic Congestion in the East Boulevard/Eleventh Street Area: Resident Marie Greig voiced concerns about parking and traffic congestion in the East Boulevard/Eleventh Street area and questioned whether fire apparatus could pass through this area at times of heavy traffic and when vehicles are parked illegally in this area. Discussion followed. Director Menard reported that this area was recently surveyed by the Town, and there may be encroachments on Town property. He further reported that this area was recently repaved with a binder coat, and there are no immediate plans for roadway or parking space markings. Discussion continued among Board members that there is possibly new ownership to an area restaurant. Prior concerns and complaints were discussed briefly. Chair Heaney suggested that Ms. Greig state her concerns in an e-mail to the Road Commission website if she wishes to have this matter placed on a future Road Commission Agenda.

Next Meeting: To be announced.

Adjournment: Member Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Town Planner Buckland. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,


John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by a vote of 4-0-0 at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on June 12, 2017.