

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, February 14, 2022**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on February 14, 2022 via Zoom teleconferencing.

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Police Chief Walter Correia, Member Marie Greig, Recording Secretary John McGonnell and Member Howard Smith.

Members Absent: Member Joseph Cardoza and Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chair Buckland.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting of January 10, 2022 were reviewed. Motion by Smith to accept as presented. Seconded by Greig. Vote: 5-0-0.

Old Business:

A. Order Regarding On-Street Parking at Stonebridge Café: Chair Buckland indicated he had received a letter on behalf of property owner John Cornish requesting his appeal be continued to the next Board meeting. Chair Buckland reiterated that the current parking spaces at 5 East Boulevard are not of regulation size. Member Greig again recused herself from discussion and possible vote on this matter. Following discussion, Member Smith mentioned that this matter has been previously discussed at length by the Board of Road Commissioners, and he made a motion to request Municipal Maintenance to remove the illegal markings from the street at 5 East Boulevard. Seconded by McGonnell. Vote: 4-0-1 [Greig abstaining].

B. Discussion: Onset Parking Program – Preparation for April Workshop: Chair Buckland made mention of prior Board discussions involving the possibility of adding additional neighborhoods to the Onset Parking Program and felt the Board should consult with Director of Natural Resources Garry Buckminster and Police Chief Walter Correia for their input.

Member Greig made a brief presentation of the possibility of involvement with the Senior Work-Off Program to utilize senior citizens as parking ambassadors, not for parking enforcement. She also mentioned the utilization of off-site parking locations such as the Onset Fire Department property on East Central Avenue, but the Fire Department is unsure at this time of it's use in the future and advised the matter is likely to be discussed at the Onset Water District Annual Meeting in May. Member Greig also spoke of the possibility of utilizing mobile parking apps linking public and private parking options. She feels some residents would be in favor of this, while others might be opposed. She will continue investigating the parking programs of other communities. Member McGonnell mentioned the possibility of obtaining funding from organizations and merchants so that the parking ambassadors could provide maps and information sheets to visiting motorists.

New Business:

A. Street Signs to Identify Pine Barrens in Wareham – Pine Barrens Coalition: Chair Buckland advised that a grant has been made available from the United States Forest Service to the Pine Barrens Coalition to fund signage. Cheryl Heller of the Pine Barrens Partnership made a presentation and showed graphics of signage that is used in Plymouth and is proposed for several locations in Wareham. She explained that Southeastern Massachusetts is the second largest example of the remaining coastal pine barrens and that three two-sided signs would be made available to Wareham. This would help promote eco-preservation in the region. The signs would be gifted to the Town free of charge. During discussion, members agreed that the signage appears to be attractive and could be beneficial, but gifts to

the Town and sign posting are in the realm of the Board of Selectmen. Member Smith made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen acceptance of the signage. Seconded by Greig. Vote: 5-0-0.

B. U.S. Census Redistricting – Town Clerk Michelle Bissonnette: Chair Buckland reported that the Town Clerk asked Member Smith to assist with sorting out existing and non-existing streets in Wareham, and she praised his knowledge and efforts. The 2020 census necessitated that some voters on some streets change voting precincts.

Member Smith indicated that time is of the essence in this matter because of upcoming elections and town meetings. He advised he had just received information of additional streets possibly requiring precinct changes. He is seeking assistance from other Board members with this project. He is scheduled to meet with Town Counsel Rich Bowen and Chief Correia on February 15, 2022 and should be obtaining further information. Board members offered their assistance.

Correspondence: Trade Roots – Timing of Traffic Signals: Chair Buckland referenced a letter dated February 10, 2022 from Attorney Ilya Ross representing Trade Roots (LDE Holdings, LLC) regarding the timing of the traffic signals on Cranberry Highway at Thatcher Lane. During discussion, board members felt these traffic signals were under the control of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. It was generally felt that at most times of the day the timing is adequate, but might present problems during the afternoon when a number of employees are leaving nearby businesses at various quitting times. Member McGonnell suggested that Chair Buckland consult with Director Menard regarding the MA DOT contact person. No formal Board action.

Any Other Business/Discussion:


Wal-Mart Traffic Study: Resident Sandy Slavin inquired of the Board about a follow-up traffic study for the Wal-Mart property being required after five years and asked about the possibility of a re-study of the intersection of Main Street and Toby Road. Chair Buckland indicated that the Town has received traffic reports that indicated that new businesses, such as Chipotle and Aspen Dental, are creating additional traffic in this area. Member Smith mentioned that the Chair had reported at an earlier Board meeting that traffic reports are on file at the Town Hall.

Robinwood Road: Member Smith inquired about any changes or progress on the proposed Robinwood Road housing development. The Chair reported that the Planning Board is requiring improvements to Robinwood Road including vegetation removal, and that some directional drilling, rather than conventional digging, will occur for some utilities in this area.

Next Meeting: To be announced.

Adjournment: Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by McGonnell. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m. by a vote of 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

WAREHAM TOWN CLERK
2022 APR 28 AM 8:26

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by a vote of 5-0-1 at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on March 14, 2022.