

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, March 8, 2021**

WAREHAM TOWN CLERK
2021 MAR 18 PM 10:00

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held remotely on March 8, 2021 via Zoom tele-conferencing.

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Member Marie Greig, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Member Howard Smith and Police Lt. Walter Correia. Also participating were members of the public. Early in the meeting, Member Smith had internet connection problems and was unable to participate in the entire meeting.

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

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting held on November 9, 2020 were reviewed. Motion to accept by Smith, seconded by Greig. Vote: 4-0-1. Other Minutes that need to be approved will be placed on a future agenda. [Note: No meetings were held in December 2020, January 2021 or February 2021.]

Old Business:

Onset Parking Program:

Chair Buckland reported that Director Garry Buckminster was unable to attend this meeting but has made several recommendations regarding the Onset Parking Program.

- A. Beach and transfer station stickers may be purchased jointly and will expire each October 1st.
- B. Contractors' parking permits will be valid for a one-year period and available for the same fee as previously set.
- C. Residential parking permits will be required from May 1 through September 15 each year, also at the same fee as previously set.
- D. Vehicles parked illegally on sidewalks on Twelfth Street continue to be an issue. Additional enforcement will be required.
- E. No major changes to the Parking Program Map have occurred.
- F. Suggested limiting the number of business parking passes to 20 per business.
- G. Suggested limiting parking time limits to 24 hours per vehicle prior to tagging and towing.
- H. Recommended new "no parking" signage along Onset Avenue from the Stone Bridge to the Town Pier and also on Wareham Avenue.

Following a brief Board discussion, resident Lisa Morales voiced concerns over parking time limits and advised that would create problems, particularly for elderly residents. Member Greig made a motion to mandate parking time limits to 48 hours, amended to 72 hours, with a second by McGonnell, but no formal vote was taken. During further discussion, it was agreed by Board members that further input should be made by Director Buckminster and that policies should be in line with the Police Department enforcement policies, which Lt. Correia indicated is currently 72 hours. Further discussion was had regarding Wareham Avenue being posted on one side of the street only.

Chair Buckland put the Onset Parking Map up on the screen for viewing. Resident Tom McManus had questions regarding the phone number that is posted for residents to call regarding information and complaints. He advised he has a different phone number. Ms. Morales indicated it appears to her that many changes have been made to the map and stated that much of the parking signage has conflicting time and date information posted. She also mentioned illegal sidewalk parking issues on Twelfth Street and the lack of response to residents' complaints. She inquired about free parking on the Town Pier for all Buzzards Bay Coalition events. Member Greig responded that she thought the free parking was for

three events only. Ms. Morales indicated she also feels that truck and trailer parking near Standpipe Hill is still an issue and contributes to the erosion of the hillside. Ms. Morales complained that the Police Department traffic study regarding East Central Avenue has not been made available to the public, and she also brought up the lack of a posted speed limit sign on East Central Avenue, a matter which she stated has been discussed by the Board for "over two years." Ms. Morales indicated that illegal parking and issues with pedestrian crossings are problematic during special events, particularly around the Fourth of July, and creates serious safety issues. She feels these issues are particularly out of control in the area of Hines Field and that additional signage and pedestrian control is needed.

Mr. McManus spoke regarding the abuse of guest parking passes and suggested that all pertinent information be printed on both sides of the pass so required information is visible at all times for enforcement personnel. Lt. Correia felt that this matter should be spelled out in a department policy.

Chair Buckland discussed the possibility of additional parking being made available on Pleasant Avenue near the Onset Post Office and at the current location of the Onset Fire Department headquarters, but nothing has been firmed up as yet. He also referred to possible parking at Lopes Playground, but this involves a deed restriction, and a legal review would be required.

A resident from #175 Onset Avenue voiced concerns about stopped and parked vehicles on Onset Avenue from the Stone Bridge to the Town Pier. He felt that new signage and input from area residents regarding possible regulatory changes could be beneficial. Chair Buckland indicated that Municipal Maintenance also needs to have input into the matter.

Chair Buckland reported that parking permit information will shortly be made available online and, hopefully, printed in local newspapers.

Discussion was held relative to the possibility of an Onset shuttle bus, but apparently, GATRA's resources are limited. Member Greig felt that a shuttle would be particularly beneficial during the late afternoon and evening hours.

The citizen comments were briefly reviewed by Board members and will be on the agenda for the April meeting.

New Business: None.

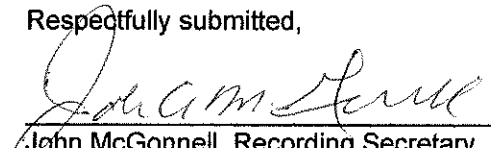
Correspondence: None.

Any Other Business/Discussion: Chair Buckland inquired if any members had any comments or concerns regarding the upcoming Spring Town Meeting. Member McGonnell indicated that Member Smith had previously expressed interest in speaking at Town Meeting and had planned to make a presentation to the Board but could not do so at this meeting because of technical difficulties.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021.

Adjournment: McGonnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Greig. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. by a vote of 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,


John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on April 12, 2021.