

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, June 13, 2022**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on June 13, 2022 was held in Room 27 of the Wareham Town Hall and also via Zoom teleconferencing.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Buckland.

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Member Marie Greig, Recording Secretary John McGonnell and Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard.
Member Howard Smith was present via Zoom.

Members Absent: Member Joseph Cardoza and Member Police Chief Walter Correia.

Also present were Assistant Town Planner Monique Baldwin, Town Assessor Jacqui Nichols and three members of the public.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting of April 11, 2022 were reviewed. Motion by Smith to accept as presented. Seconded by Greig. Vote: 5-0-0. [Note: There was no meeting in May 2022.]

Old Business:

Resident Parking Program: Chair Buckland reported that Director of Natural Resources Garry Buckminster is currently not in favor of expanding the Onset Parking Program. He has a continuing lack of staff, and there are ongoing problems with the existing program. Director Buckminster advised he has only been able to hire one parking enforcement officer for 2022.

Member Greig reported that the Onset Fire Department Prudential Committee has indicated they will not open their lot to the public because of liability issues, but they will possibly allow short-term parking for local businesses and the post office in Onset Village.

Member Greig also reported that due to staffing issues, Director Buckminster will be unable to oversee the Senior Work-Off Program, but there might be a possibility of having Chief Correia assume that role. Motion by Smith to formally inquire if the Police Chief could possibly oversee the Senior Work-Off Program. Seconded by Menard. Vote: 5-0-0.

New Business:

Woodland Cove – Addresses – Jacqui Nichols: Town Assessor Jacqui Nichols appeared before the Board along with the local postmaster. Ms. Nichols reported that the property involves Lot 3102 Cranberry Highway and suggested that a private way be created known as Woodland Cove Way to facilitate postal delivery and emergency response, with addresses for each of the various buildings on the premises. She reported that a similar situation occurred at the Union Pond Apartments which is now known as Gatehouse Drive and also at Brandy Hill, known as State Street. This would address the concerns of the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS as well as postal delivery issues. She further reported that the Post Office Department and Onset Fire Department, along with the 911 Office, will work out the logistic issues, and her office will notify the State 911 and Mass. GIS departments. Chair Buckland suggested that the Planning Board be notified formally of this name change to make it official. Ms. Nichols indicated that she would submit the plan to the Planning Board. Following discussion, motion was made by McGonnell, seconded by Greig, to name Woodland Cove Way with appropriate public safety numbering of the various buildings/apartments. Vote: 5-0-0.

Kendrick Road – Request for No Parking Signs – Nancy Guilmette: Via correspondence, complainant reported that parked trucks create hazardous conditions in the area. During discussion, several board members indicated they had viewed this area at various times and did not notice a parking problem in this industrial area. Members did not feel that on-street parking is a major issue, and the Board took no action at this time.

Oakdale and Pires Street – Request for Mirror at Intersection – Jody Santagate: During discussion, Member Greig mentioned the lack of street signage in this area and noted that several convex mirrors are installed on private lots in the area. Board members were in agreement that this intersection has little through traffic, and Director Menard voiced concern for town liability risk and indicated no prior mirror installations have been undertaken by Municipal Maintenance. He also reported that his department will follow up on the signage issue in that neighborhood. No Board action regarding the mirror.

Cranberry Highway Improvement Project – Proposed Modifications – Bill Butler: Chair Buckland advised that his office received an e-mail relating to two current issues at this site.

1. The turn lane changes at CVS/Home Depot which appear narrow but seemed to be functional.
2. The intersection changes at Cranberry Highway and Main Avenue where a direct left turn can now be made from Cranberry Highway onto Sand Pond Road, and a direct left turn previously prohibited from Cranberry Highway onto Main Avenue is now permitted.

During discussion, Board members indicated that construction is still under way, and all markings and signage have not been finalized. Further, there will be a learning curve for motorists to become familiar with the traffic pattern changes. Director Menard reported that the State has been proposing changes in this area since the 1980's and probably would be resistant to further modifications at this late date. No Board action at this time.

North Water Street – One-Way, No Parking or Resident-Only Parking – Cheryl Klim: Cheryl Klim of the Wareham Land Trust appeared before the Board and voiced concerns for public access to the approximately 1,600 feet of public beachfront property in this area. She stated she sympathizes with neighborhood residents' concerns and would like to see a possible compromise with their issues. During discussion, Board members considered the current issues of North Water Street. The street is currently partially a one-way street, there are numerous side streets intersecting with North Water, and this area is currently not part of the Onset Parking Program. Board members also voiced concern about parking enforcement issues, particularly involving motorists parking in this area for beach access to avoid parking kiosk fees. Members agreed that there are no obvious solutions to the myriad issues of traffic and parking problems in this area. No Board action at this time.

Correspondence:

5 East Boulevard, Onset: Chair Buckland reported that his office received a Freedom of Information Act request from the attorney representing the property owner at 5 East Boulevard for any Board meeting Minutes and any other records relating to the Board's discussions concerning the issues at the Stonebridge Bistro property. Member Greig inquired about the Board's earlier directive and felt that the issues now primarily concern the use of a public way. Member McGonnell questioned the lack of enforcement regarding the Board of Road Commissioners' prior order. Board members viewed photos of the premises showing parking spaces being blocked by traffic cones and a wooden stool. Chair Buckland reported that he and the Board of Selectmen Chair Judith Whiteside are in agreement that the use of public rights of way are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. Director Menard and Member Greig both voiced concerns about other areas of Onset where private property owners are posting "no parking" signs and are blocking off public property for personal usage. Member Smith voiced concern that this situation is another example of lack of enforcement. Director Menard suggested that the Board of Road Commissioners could possibly make some policy changes regarding parking enforcement as part of the Onset Parking Program. Chair Buckland suggested forming a Board sub-committee to meet with Director Buckminster and Chief Correia to discuss parking enforcement issues.

Any Other Business/Discussion:


Sign Replacement – Marcia Campbell: Marcia Campbell appeared before the Board and inquired about a prior accident that occurred on Terry Lane West where a building and a street sign were damaged. The street sign has not been replaced. Director Menard said he will check the area, and the sign will be replaced shortly.

Upcoming Board Vacancy: Member McGonnell advised Chair Buckland and the Board members that his Board appointment expires on June 30, 2022 and that he will not be seeking reappointment.

Next Meeting: To be announced.

Adjournment: McGonnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Menard. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m. by a vote of 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



~~John McGonnell, Recording Secretary~~
Kenneth Buckland, Chair

Correspondence discussed:

*Jody Santagate – Oakdale and Pires Streets – 5/9/2022
Woodland Cove/Dakota Partners – Woodland Cove Way – 5/17/2022
Nancy Guilmette – Kendrick Road – 5/24/2022
Bill Butler – Cranberry Highway – 6/7/2022
Cheryl Killim – North Water Street – 6/8/2022
Attorney for 5 East Boulevard, Onset – Request for Documents*