

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, September 20, 2021**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on September 20, 2021 in Room 27 at 54 Marion Road, Wareham.

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Member Marie Greig, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard and Member Howard Smith. Police Chief Walter Correia arrived at 4:18 p.m. Member Joseph Cardoza was absent. Also participating were four members of the public.

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 of August 9, 2021 were reviewed. Motion by Smith to accept as presented. Seconded by Menard. Vote: 5-0-0.

Preliminary Business:

- A. Reorganization:** Chair Buckland asked that this matter be postponed as he wants a full Board present during discussion and possible vote.
- B. Jobs Island and Fire Island Areas:** Jacqui Nichols, Town Assessor, appeared before the Board and provided copies of drawings of the Jobs Island and Fire Island areas. She advised of different access points and address confusion in these areas. This confusion is also a problem for the Assessor's Office as there possibly will be a subdivision in the area. There could also be confusion regarding emergency response and deliveries in the area. Ms. Nichols recommended that the access to Fire Island be named Fire Island Road. Following discussion, the Board agreed to make a name-change recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Old Business:

- A. Parking on East Boulevard at the Stonebridge Restaurant:** Chair Buckland reported this matter has been discussed by this Board at previous meetings, and it is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to approve the use of Town property. During discussion, Members Menard, Smith and McGonnell indicated that posted "parking/towing" signage was inappropriate and should be removed. Any parking on Town property should be open to the public, with parking spots properly marked. Board members were in agreement that the Road Commission does not have enforcement authority. This Board has concerns regarding liability and believes the Board of Selectmen should be advised of this Board's concerns.
- B. Residential Only Parking on Bay Street, Onset – (Jane Strauch, Denise Lamas):** Following a brief discussion, members felt that action on this issue should be deferred to the Spring Public Hearing regarding the Onset Parking Program.
- C. Pleasant and Columbia/Trinity – 4-way stop or pavement stop marking and Slow Children sign – (Nancy Wheeler):** During discussion, Chief Correia indicated he had personally viewed the area and found it not heavily traveled. He stated that it is used mostly by neighborhood residents. Residents had requested signage on the main roadways. During discussion, Board members felt that "Slow Children" signage could possibly be appropriate, but as the intersections are now seasonally quiet, no Board action at this time.

- D. Use of Loading Zone on Union Avenue** – (Nora Bicki, Jennifer Burroughs): Chair Buckland reported there are citizens' concerns that the loading zone on Union Avenue is not being properly used, and illegal parking on Onset Avenue results. Photographs of illegally-parked vehicles in the area were shown by Member Smith.

Property owner John Salerno voiced his concerns for both traffic and pedestrian safety in this area. He indicated all vendors to his business have been advised to use the Union Avenue loading zone, but problems arise due to the number of new truck drivers who are unfamiliar with the area. He further stated some drivers just don't care and should be ticketed. Mr. Salerno also stated that three of his vendors must access the front of his building. He has provided them with keys to his building and has requested their services in the early-morning hours. These vendors include a grease-removal service requiring a suction hose that must be connected to a tank in the basement, a company delivering large pressurized gas bottles which are heavy and awkward and should not be moved across the streets, and a trash company emptying rubbish dumpsters which are heavy and rolled from an alleyway to the truck parked on Onset Avenue.

Member Smith commented on the pedestrian issues in the area and the limited space for vehicles passing when trucks are parked on Onset Avenue in this area. He suggested that larger signage might be appropriate. Member McGonnell commented on the speed of vehicles passing through this area. Mr. Salerno indicated he will re-advise his vendors to utilize the loading zone on Union Avenue.

Chair Buckland commented that this issue is primarily an enforcement issue, for which the Town has limited resources, and he will contact Director Buckminster relative to increased parking enforcement at this location. Mr. Buckland also indicated this issue will appear on a future agenda if other information becomes available.

- E. Handicapped Parking Space at 155 Onset Avenue** – (Nicole Provenzano): Member McGonnell reported that he and Director Menard had visited this area, and there appears to be sufficient room for one handicapped parking spot at 155 Onset Avenue. Nicole Provenzano indicated that her building is the only one in the area without dedicated parking and would like the entire area to be designated "resident parking only." During discussion, Board members felt that would not be appropriate. Member McGonnell made a motion to create one handicapped parking spot at 155 Onset Avenue. Seconded by Member Greig. Vote: 6-0-0.
- F. Request for "Slow Children" Signage at #25 and #41 Riverside Drive:** This matter was discussed at the June 14, 2021 meeting. Members Smith and McGonnell reported visiting the area on multiple occasions and observing heavy pedestrian traffic. Director Menard indicated Municipal Maintenance would install the necessary signage.

New Business:

- A. Parking on North Water Street** – (Cheryl Kim): No Board action at this time as the members felt that action on this issue should be deferred to the Spring Public Hearing regarding the Onset Parking Program.
- B. Speed and Tractor Trailer Traffic on Charlotte Furnace Road:** During discussion, Member Smith indicated he had visited the area and found one "Slow Children" sign posted, as well as one "30 mile per hour" speed limit sign posted in Carver approaching the Wareham line. He felt the current signage is inadequate. It was pointed out that trucks in the area are using the roadway to access local businesses. Chief Correia indicated that the department traffic monitor would be set up in the area when it becomes available. Following discussion, Member Smith made a motion to post the area in both directions with "30 mile per hour" signage. Seconded by Member Greig. Vote: 6-0-0.

- C. Traffic Controls on Greenwood Avenue/Bayview Street – (Elaine Dwyer, Brenda Kim):**
This matter was postponed to the next Board meeting to allow members to view the area.

- D. Swifts Beach Road, Parking on Street:** There was a complaint that a tow truck was frequently being parked near #174 Swifts Beach Road and that the operator was not an area resident. Director Menard reported that there is a sidewalk available in this area. Chief Correia stated he was aware of this issue, he had spoken with the owner of the tow truck (Vaughn's Towing), and he advised this issue has been resolved. No Board action required.

Correspondence: None.

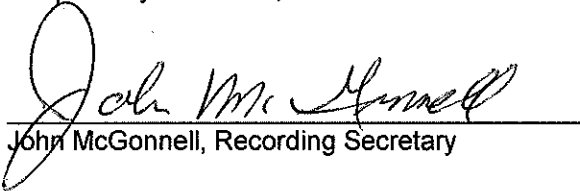
Any Other Business/Discussion:

Parking near Captain John Kendrick Museum – Angela Dunham: Chair Buckland provided copies of an e-mail from Angela Dunham, President of the Wareham Historical Society, regarding parking issues in the area of 124 Main Street. Member Smith recused himself and left the table as he is affiliated with the Wareham Historical Society. During discussion, it was revealed that numerous orange traffic cones have been placed curbside in this area and that these cones were placed by security personnel from Verilife. Chair Buckland stated he would contact Verilife management and request the removal of the cones.

Next Meeting: To be announced.

Adjournment: Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Greig. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m. by a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on December 13, 2021.