

**Town of Wareham  
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
Monday, February 12, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**Location:** The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on February 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 27 of Memorial Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chair William Heaney, Town Planner Kenneth Buckland, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard, Member Howard Smith and Police Chief Kevin Walsh. Also present were approximately eight members of the public.

**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 December 11, 2017 were reviewed. Motion by Member Smith to accept the Minutes. Seconded by Member Buckland. Vote: 6-0-0. [Note: There was no meeting in January 2018.]

**New Business:**

**Old Section of Main Street (a/k/a Pumpkintown Road):**

**(A) Proposal to Close Off an Old Section of Main Street (a/k/a Pumpkintown Road):**

Elizabeth Arone of 946 Main Street reported that she has resided at the location for approximately two years, although the property has been in her family for several generations. She is concerned about the goings-on, at all hours of the day and night, at the dead-end section of Old Main Street. She is concerned about large quantities of debris being dumped in the area, including liquor bottles, condoms and drug paraphernalia. This area is unlit, somewhat overgrown and in a general state of disrepair. She is further concerned about some of the residents and visitors to the Father Bill's Homeless Shelter which is adjacent to her property. She feels that the abandoned section of roadway serves no practical purpose, is a nuisance and should be blocked off.

Rob Gilmore, Ms. Arone's partner, echoed many of Ms. Arone's sentiments and advised the situation has worsened since the opening of Father Bill's Homeless Shelter, resulting in additional traffic, with some of the visitors to Father Bill's frequenting the dead-end section of Main Street for what he feels are illicit purposes.

**(B) Proposal to Make an Old Section of Main Street (a/k/a Pumpkintown Road) a Parking Area:**

Jack Simard and Michelle Krauser of the Buzzards Bay Coalition spoke relative to the Anderson (DeJesus) Conservation Area and the Coalition's proposal for a walking trail and passive recreation area nearby. [See Attachment.] They were in agreement with Ms. Arone and Mr. Gilmore about closing off the dead-end section of Old Main Street, but the Coalition is seeking to create two or three parking spots in the area and to erect a small informational kiosk and perhaps a split-rail fence to block off the abandoned roadway. They stated it is the Coalition's desire to improve the area and access to a walking trail area that is proposed. They did not feel there would be an overwhelming number of visitors to the area.

Chief Walsh indicated that the police department has received multiple complaints about activities in the area. He reported that his officers spot check the area frequently, but it is a hit-or-miss proposition. He feels that the situation is a quality-of-life issue for the neighborhood and recommended that a gate or

something to block off the area be installed. Ms. Arone acknowledged that there has been a high-visibility police presence in the area and commended Chief Walsh and his officers for their efforts.

Recording Secretary McGonnell inquired of Director Menard whether the Town has the resources to remove pavement and rusted guard rails from the area, which probably should have been removed 20 to 30 years ago when the new bridge was built resulting in the abandonment of this section of roadway. Director Menard indicated the Town would have the capability, but it would not be an immediate priority given manpower and budget constraints.

Member Smith indicated that he is part of a local organization that does clean-ups of trash, and he is very familiar with this particular location. He was shocked by the amount of debris and liquor containers that were discarded in this area. Resident Claire Smith inquired about the overall terrain in the area and questioned the safety of trail users because of the proximity of the proposed trail to the railroad tracks. Jack Simard indicated he feels there is sufficient buffer between the proposed trail and the railroad right of way. Additionally, he also indicated that volunteers would be constructing appropriate walkways or stairways for trail access.

Following discussion, Chairman Heaney indicated there are essentially two separate proposals for this area – parts of which conflict, and parts of which are in agreement. He asked the parties if they could sit down together and possibly resolve their differences to come to a mutually beneficial agreement, rather than rely on a direct edict from the Board of Road Commissioners which could possibly leave one side unhappy. The parties agreed to do so, and the matter will be revisited at a later date by the Board of Road Commissioners.

**Old Business:** None.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** To be announced.

**Adjournment:** Member Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Chief Walsh. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. by a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by a 4-0-1 vote at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on March 12, 2018.