

WAREHAM TOWN CLERK
2022 APR 11 4:00 PM

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, April 11, 2022**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on April 11, 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 4:01 p.m. by Chair Buckland.

Members Present: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Member Joseph Cardoza, Member Marie Greig, Recording Secretary John McGonnell and Member Howard Smith.

Members Absent: Member Police Chief Walter Correia and Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard.

Also present were five members of the public, including Town Moderator Claire Smith.

There was a complaint regarding the Zoom connection.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting of March 14, 2022 were reviewed. Motion by Greig to accept as presented. Seconded by Cardoza. Vote: 4-0-1 (Smith abstaining).

Workshop:

- A. Town Lots and On-Street Parking
 - 1. Issues to Consider
 - (1) Public Input
 - 2. Report on Resident Parking Sticker Program
 - (1) Scope/Neighborhoods
 - (2) Management and Enforcement
 - (3) Source(s) of Funding
 - (4) Other

Chair Buckland spoke and invited input and ideas from Board members and the public regarding traffic and parking issue solutions, particularly in Onset as this area is a congested tourist/beach area during the busy summer season. The Chair also advised that the Hynes Field project is still being reviewed before the Conservation Commission prior to the commencement of any construction. The GATRA bus service and adjacent bus stop for the Onset route should be in place by May 1, 2022. However, schedules and routes are not finalized yet. Directional signage for pedestrians and bus riders will be installed on Onset Avenue near Lopes Field.

Member Cardoza voiced his concern about asphalt paving at Hynes Field as the area is a wetland and subject to periodic flooding which could potentially cause damage to asphalt.

Member Greig spoke about the parking ambassador program and introduced Missy Dzikczek, Director of the Council on Aging. They indicated that several senior citizens are interested in participating in the tax work-off program as parking ambassadors. The duties of the parking ambassadors would not include enforcement. The program would be modeled after the programs in other tourist communities such as Provincetown. The function of the ambassadors would be to provide directions to motorists and pedestrians and offer suggestions as to parking locations, restrooms and trash and recycling receptacles. Participants would be identified by traffic vests and would be insured by the Town of Wareham. Onset walking maps would hopefully be provided by the Onset Bay Association. The program would be overseen by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Schedules would be issued to participants who would be eligible to earn up to \$1,200 in credit towards their real estate tax bill. This year's program will be a trial run with the possibility of future expansion.

Board members discussed several additional satellite parking areas in the Onset Village area. Member Smith suggested possibly using the Dudley Brown VFW Post with appropriate bus service to the village and beach areas. Member Greig reported that the Onset Fire Department property on East Central Avenue has been discussed as a possible short-term parking area for the post office and Onset business area. She advised that the OFD Prudential Committee has not yet made a decision and will wait until after the District Meeting in May to make a final decision.

Board members discussed possible options of using the parking lot at The Bay Pointe Club as well as the lot at St. Mary's Church which is currently utilized by certain private businesses.

Chair Buckland reported there is still a study under way involving the property in the vicinity of Highland Avenue and Tenth Street for possible parking.

Bay Street: Residents of 35 Bay Street inquired about "residential parking only" stickers for area residents, and they suggested that parking restrictions be put in place from Nanumet Street to Sagamore Street with no restrictions from Sagamore Street to Bay Street. They reiterated that most of the parking and blocking issues arise from Onset Island residents and guests who do not utilize their private parking lots and instead park on neighborhood streets. Following a discussion, there was a motion by Cardoza to invite representatives of the Onset Island Residents Association to appear at our next Board meeting to discuss the issues and possible solutions to these parking problems. Seconded by Smith. Vote: 5-0-0 to send the invitation to appear. It was further discussed that Onset Island residents and guests are currently not eligible to participate in the Onset Parking Program.

North Water Street: A resident of North Water Street inquired about "resident parking only" in their area and complained about beach parkers in the area and the lack of response for enforcement of parking violations. Member Greig related that there are many issues existing involving enforcement, particularly with "resident only" permits. Member Smith indicated that there seems to be an issue with the lack of parking enforcement. Member McGonnell suggested the possibility of setting a meeting between the Road Commissioners, the Police Department and the Department of Natural Resources to discuss parking enforcement issues. Discussion followed regarding the fact that parking fees collected by the Town are going into the General Fund. Town Moderator Claire Smith explained that as a result of Town Meeting action, parking funds do go into the General Fund but are allocated for specific parking-related issues and the funding of summer programs.

A Zoom viewer inquired about the availability to obtain parking permits online. Director Buckland replied that service is not currently available online.

Onset resident Patrick Brophy reported that he was a prior Wareham parking enforcement employee, but he is unsure about the hiring situation for 2022. He indicated in prior years there were generally only two parking enforcement officers covering the entire town. This resulted in issues with responses from the Swifts Beach Area to the East Boulevard area in Onset for enforcement issues. He also feels that a signage problem exists, suggesting that large "P" signs be installed to direct motorists to parking areas, not just "No Parking" signage which is sometimes confusing regarding time limits, kiosk parking, etc. He further indicated that by 10:30 a.m. on most summer mornings the lots are full and that bus service would help, particularly for disabled people. Board members felt that parking ambassadors at Swifts Beach would help educate motorists and avoid some enforcement issues.

Old Business: None.

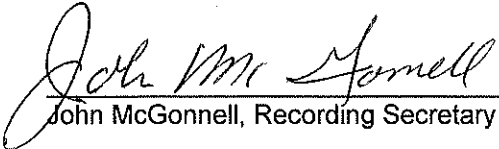
Correspondence: None.

Any Other Business/Discussion: Member Smith inquired about the status of issues involving the Stonebridge Bistro at 5 East Boulevard. Chair Buckland reported that the property owner's attorney Anthony Savastano has been in contact with Town Counsel Richard Bowen, and attempts are being made to resolve the issues.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2022.

Adjournment: Cardoza moved to adjourn. Seconded by Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m. by a vote of 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

Correspondence discussed:
None.

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by a vote of 5-0-0 at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on June 13, 2022.