

Wareham Town Library
1200 Main Street
Wareham, MA 01996

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, April 12, 2021**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held remotely on April 12, 2021 via Zoom tele-conferencing.

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 joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Also participating were Director of Natural Resources Garry Buckminster and members of the public.

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

Minutes: The following Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meetings were reviewed:

July 30, 2020: Motion to accept by Smith, seconded by Greig. Voted to accept.

September 14, 2020: Motion to accept by McGonnell, seconded by Greig. Voted to accept.

October 5, 2020: Motion to accept by McGonnell, seconded by Greig. Voted to accept.

March 8, 2021: Motion to accept by Smith, seconded by Greig. Voted to accept.

Old Business:

Onset Parking Program:

Director Buckminster spoke about several items regarding the Onset Parking Program. He related that the long-term parking/72-hour rules have been in effect since the Onset Parking Program was initiated. He stated most other towns have a 72-hour regulation, some with fewer hours. He feels the rules should be in place year-round and that they work well in dealing with derelict vehicles left primarily in town-owned lots, many with flat tires, some filled with debris, some having fluid leakage issues, as well as general vehicle deterioration. The regulation is a good tool to deal with unregistered/uninsured vehicles, and he would recommend that it be left in place as currently written. Chair Buckland suggested that this regulation possibly should be instituted on a town-wide basis.

Regarding the prior confusion over which telephone number to use concerning parking complaints/issues, Director Buckminster suggested people contact the Harbormaster's office during regular business hours. After hours or during an emergency, people should contact the Police Department.

Kiosk parking regulations will be in effect from June 1 to September 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., except for the Onset Pier which is in effect until 10:00 p.m.

Residential parking regulations will be in effect from May 1 to October 31. Passes will be available through an online portal shortly.

Relative to the guest parking limit of 20 per business, Director Buckminster feels that is adequate. The Town of Plymouth has an hourly regulation, and business employees must move their vehicles to accommodate that regulation. Member Greig inquired about the number of employee parking spots that are available. The Director was uncertain as to the exact number but feels there is an adequate number of employee parking spots. After discussion, Member Greig made a motion to cap the numbers at 20 per business with additional permits able to be requested by merchants on a case-by-case basis. Seconded by Member Smith. Vote: 5-0-0.

The issue of free parking on the Onset Pier, which was discussed at a prior meeting, occurred because of a defective kiosk. It is not an ongoing issue.

Director Buckminster informed the Board that enforcement in 2020 began on July 1 because of Covid-19, and he expects there will be no major problems with the kiosk enforcement going into effect June 1 this year. No changes are necessary.

Relative to the printed dates on parking permits, Director Buckminster reported that the complaints are on-going and are being reviewed. He also recommended that the 10:00 p.m. regulation on the Pier remain as is.

Concerning parking regulations at Lopes Playground and Hines Field, those lots are under the jurisdiction of the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. Chair Buckland will contact those authorities to see if the Road Commissioners can be of assistance regarding these lots.

The Board had a discussion relative to on-street parking and erosion in the area of Standpipe Hill. Municipal Maintenance Director Menard advised he has attempted to address some problems in that area, but there are limitations to what he can do because of Conservation restrictions. Director Buckminster suggested his department could possibly spread some loam to cover tree roots in the area and that perhaps a restriction as to how high up on the hillside a vehicle can park might be beneficial.

Chief Correia indicated he is not aware of any major issues in the area of East Central Avenue and indicated his department will be placing a low-profile traffic monitor in the area. No Board action at this time.

Town Meeting Articles: Road Commission in the Charter

Chair Buckland indicated that he has lobbied for status quo with input from the Police Department and Road Commissioners. Member Smith stated he is in favor of leaving the Board of Road Commissioners as is, and he is willing to speak at Town Meeting regarding the issue. During discussion, other board members indicated they are also in favor of keeping the Board of Road Commissioners as is. Following discussion, motion by McGonnell to have Smith speak on behalf of the Board of Road Commissioners at Town Meeting. Seconded by Greig. Vote: 5-0-1 (Smith abstaining).

New Business:

Two-Hour Parking Limit on Main Street, Wareham Village: Member Smith advised that he was approached by two business owners with concerns about vehicles being parked for extended periods of time on Main Street, particularly in the area of The Jug Shop and El Mariachi Restaurant. Director Menard advised there are signage issues and additional parking issues on Merchants Way, particularly at night. Menard indicated there would be no problem installing additional signage on Main Street, but additional enforcement will be required. He also voiced concerns for area residents parking on Merchants Way. Following discussion, Smith made a motion to prohibit overnight commercial vehicle parking on Merchants Way. Seconded by McGonnell. Vote: 6-0-0. Member Smith and Director Menard will view the Merchants Way area and assess other concerns. Director Buckminster indicated there are major issues with fishing and poaching problems in the Merchants Way area.

ADA Parking Downtown Village, East Side: Member Smith indicated there is handicapped parking in the public lot on the opposite side, but the necessity of crossing the street creates a hardship for handicapped people. Director Menard suggested using part of the alleyway adjacent to the El Mariachi Restaurant (which has been closed off for previously authorized outdoor dining) to create one or possibly two handicapped parking spaces, while still allowing for outdoor dining. He will measure the area and take appropriate action.

Commercial Vehicle Parking on Fern Avenue: Chair Buckland indicated that he received an e-mail regarding commercial vehicles parking on Fern Avenue, with no other specifics. McGonnell inquired of Chief Correia whether the Police Department patrols could check the area and report on any problems. The chief indicated they would. No Board Action at this time.

Parking Spaces at Onset Avenue and East Boulevard: Glen Cove Hotel owner John Salerno voiced concerns over what is town property vs. private property on East Boulevard. He also voiced concerns about vehicles being "booted" and towed and parking regulation signage being posted on the building of a private business. Further, he mentioned a rubbish dumpster possibly being on town property. During discussion, Director Menard indicated these issues need clarification as to exactly what is town property vs. private property. Chief Correia stated he is unaware of any vehicles being "booted" or towed and suggests if there are any issues with these matters or any violations, the Police Department should be contacted and will investigate immediately. Director Buckminster indicated he believes the dumpster is on private property. Chair Buckland will follow up with Director Menard on these matters, and they will view the Municipal Maintenance survey of the area.

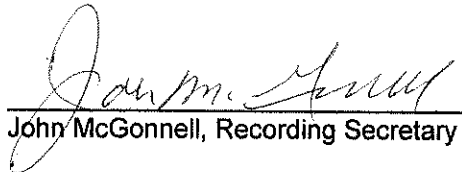
Correspondence: None.

Any Other Business/Discussion: None.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 10, 2021.

Adjournment: Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Menard. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 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 May 17, 2021.