

Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Monday, August 15, 2022

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held in Room 27 of the Wareham Town Hall and via Zoom teleconferencing.

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

Members Present: Roll Call: Chair Kenneth Buckland, Marie Greig, Howard Smith, Joseph Cardoza, Municipal Maintenance Director David Menard, and Police Chief Walter Correia

Also present were two members of the public.

Chair Buckland asked if anyone would be willing to act as Clerk Pro Tem for the meeting. No member volunteered.

Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of July 11 was postponed as some members stated they did not receive them. No action was taken.

Old Business:

A. Resident Parking Program: Chair Buckland stated that Director of Natural Resources Garry Buckminster is not in favor of expanding the Onset Parking Program. A discussion took place, and an unidentified member of the public who was off camera complained at length about having to pay to park in front of his house. Chair Buckland mentioned that Hynes Field offered free parking with GATRA shuttle bus service. The speaker asked if paying to park was “done in Wareham” also. Member Chief Correia explained that the parking program protects the homeowner from visitors parking in front of residents’ homes. The resident then asked why he couldn’t launch his dinghy from the boat launch next to Stonebridge and leave his dinghy anchored on the beach there. Chair Buckland was not sure. The resident continued to complain about paying for his parking sticker. An extended discussion by the resident about the marina, boat ramp and sea grass removal violations and about his paying of his taxes took place. He then complained about the parking of buses and vans on the Town Pier and people from out-of-town burying diapers on the beach. He referred to the Pier as a “cash cow.” Member Cardoza explained again the reason for the parking sticker required to park in front of residents’ houses. He suggested the citizen bring these issues to the Board of Selectmen.

B. East Boulevard Parking and Signs: Member Greig left the meeting. Chair Buckland stated that the Town had provided a check for \$4500 for an attorney to research the history of East Boulevard to find out the ownership and the right of way. The Town Counsel has suggested that the parking lines/ stripes be blacked out or painted over now because they do not delineate appropriate parking spaces. Chair Buckland states the areas businesses need parking spaces. He also asked the Fire Department about the intersection. Member Smith informed the Members that he was told by the Fire Department that there was a problem with the fire trucks and vehicles negotiating the turn there. A second member of the public who did not identify himself for the record also spoke to this issue. He said cars back up on that street and asked if there would be no parking there. Chair Buckland stated that Town Counsel was exploring options. The discussion continued about who could park there. The

citizen continued to state that the owner of the restaurant should not be allowed to tell people who should be allowed to park there and who cannot be allowed to park there. Member Chief Correia stated it was Town Property. Member Smith reiterated that it was Town Property and showed a photo from his phone with five vehicles parked in the area and stated that this issue has been going on for ten years. The first unidentified citizen still off camera participated in the discussion and stated there should be no parking there until the lawyers decided the matter.

Motion: Member Smith moved to follow the advice of Attorney Bowen to paint over lines. Second by Member Cardoza. Roll Call Vote: Cardoza Yes; Menard Yes; Smith Yes; Correia Yes; Buckland Yes. Greig Absent.

Vote: 5-0-0.

Member Greig returned to room.

C. Carver Road Ext. Parking: The Board of Selectmen denied the use of the Right of Way to the Power Company for parking on this road. The company asked to withdraw the application.

New Business:

A. Plymouth Rd. –Speed on Road: Chair Buckland explained that multiple emails were received from residents stating that there has been an increase in traffic speeding on Plymouth Road. Residents request a limit of 20 miles per hour. A discussion took place. Member Smith stated that when he was in business, he found the road to be difficult to pull out onto and that there were many hills. Chair Buckland stated that more research will be done on the road and on speed limits. The issue will be taken up again at the next meeting.

B. Traffic Control Signs Policy: Chair Buckland discussed a need for a policy which would make the job of the Commissioners easier when the need arose to create new speed controls for streets.

Motion: Member Cardoza moved to discuss this issue at the next meeting. Second by Member Smith. Chair Buckland decided to skip roll call for this motion. Voice call for vote. Vote was unanimous. 6-0-0.

Correspondence: None.

Any Other Business/Discussion: Member Cardoza expressed concern about the trench across from the funeral parlor at the intersection of Charge Pond Road and Cranberry Highway. Member Greig expressed concern about the September 24 car show on Onset Avenue with 500 cars expected. General discussions took place.

Next Meeting: September 19, 2022

Adjournment: Member Smith moved to adjourn at 4:54 pm. Second by Member Greig. The meeting was adjourned by a vote of 6-0-0.

Transcribed by N. Bicki, 12/30/2022

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Buckland, Chair