

**Town of Wareham  
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
Monday, February 10, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**Location:** The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting was held on February 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 27 of Memorial Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Chair Kenneth Buckland, Member Joseph Cardoza, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Vice Chair David Menard, Member Howard Smith, Police Chief John Walcek and Member Judith Whiteside. Also present were approximately five members of the public and one member of the press plus Selectmen Munise and Slavin.

**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 held on January 13, 2020 were reviewed. Motion by Whiteside to accept the Minutes. Seconded by Walcek. Vote: 7-0-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Stop Signs at Intersection of Barlow Avenue and Rose Point Avenue:** The formal notice of the public hearing was read into the record by Chief Walcek. A neighborhood resident, Mr. Johansen, reported conditions in the area worsened during the summer months. In addition to increased vehicular traffic, there were a number of pedestrians, and the area has no sidewalks. He inquired of Chief Walcek what the fine for a Stop sign violation would be. The Chief replied there is a \$100 fine, plus a \$5 surfine. Mr. Johansen stated he observed a number of police patrols in the area, and he also inquired as to speeding fines. The Chief replied it is a minimum of \$50, with the fine graduating at increased speeds. Director Menard and Chief Walcek had personally viewed the area and recommended that two Stop signs be posted at the forked intersection northbound. Motion made by McGonnell to install the two Stop signs. Seconded by Whiteside. Vote: 7-0-0.

**Old Business:**

**Reconsideration Request by Janet Stuart for Job's Island Road Street Sign:** The petitioner did not appear at the meeting. During a brief discussion, it was determined that this is a private way. No Board action.

**Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw:** Director Menard reported that sidewalk clearing involves liability issues, and with the current manpower inadequacies, it would be a very difficult task. Currently, Municipal Maintenance categorizes street clearing in school zones and on school bus routes as a priority. Sidewalks are cleared when possible. Relative to additional sidewalks along Cranberry Highway to be installed during upcoming reconstruction, Selectman Slavin reminded the Board of the State's previously stated desire to transfer ownership and maintenance of Cranberry Highway to the Town of Wareham. During discussion, Director Menard felt the issue of sidewalk clearing would require further study, and Member Whiteside stated that this action would require a Town Meeting vote for a Bylaw. Whiteside also mentioned that Cranberry Highway is a State road and remains a State responsibility.

**New Business:**

**Drew's Way Street Sign Request:** A request was made by resident Paul O'Donnell for a street sign for Drew's Way. Chairman Buckland reported that Drew's Way does not appear on Google Maps, and their information is generally garnered from Massachusetts GIS. Chief Walcek checked with the 911

Administrator and found that Drew's Way does appear on the local Enhanced 911 System. During discussion, it was determined that Drew's Way is a private way. No Board action.

**Correspondence:**

**SRPEDD Report on Traffic Analysis for Cranberry Highway and Tihonet Road:** During discussion about traffic controls and signals for the intersection, it was revealed that 80% of the costs would be borne by the State. The remaining 20% would be the responsibility of the Town of Wareham. Selectman Slavin reported that projects involving the State and the Town can take up to eight or nine years for resolution of funding and engineering issues. This particular project would also involve private properties. Chief Walcek remarked that the full report on this issue is 90 pages in length, and the costs of the safety improvements for this intersection are estimated to be between \$350,000 to \$400,000. There was also discussion that the closing of the Elm Street bridge has exacerbated traffic problems in the area of this intersection. Chair Buckland indicated that he will place the matter on a future Agenda. No Board action.

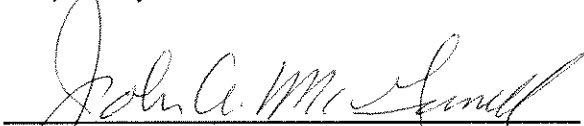
**Any Other Business/Discussion:**

Member Whiteside reported that at the Charter Review Committee meeting on January 6, 2020, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the movement of the Board of Road Commissioners from the Town Charter to a Bylaw. She further reported that Town Counsel advised that this would essentially revert the Board of Road Commissioner duties back to the Board of Selectmen. Chair Buckland inquired whether members wished to offer a response to these issues. Members felt they needed more information and time before weighing in. Chair Buckland indicated he would place the matter on the next Agenda of the Board for discussion.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 9, 2020.

**Adjournment:** Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Menard. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

*These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by unanimous vote at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on April 30, 2020.*