

**Town of Wareham
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

MINUTES

Location: The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting of January 12, 2016 was held in Room 27 of Memorial Town Hall.

Members Present: Members present: Joseph Cardoza, William Heaney, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Vice Chair David Menard, David Pichette and Howard Smith. Also present: The chair and three other members of the Bike Path Study Committee, approximately six citizens and one member of the press. Police Chief Kevin Walsh arrived at 4:10 p.m.

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

Minutes: The Minutes of the Board of Road Commissioners meeting held on December 8, 2015 were reviewed. Motion by Member Smith to accept the Minutes, seconded by Member Heaney. Vote: 6-0-0.

New Business:

Bike Path: The chairman and three other members of the Bike Path Study Committee gave an extensive overview of their proposed plans for the Wareham section of the South Coast bike path. A PIF has been submitted to the State for the Minot Avenue portion. This section will require engineering plans. Some portions will traverse through the woods, but widening of the current sidewalk will be necessary in addition to hydrant and utility pole relocations. The overall preference for the entire project would be a desired width of ten feet to accommodate both walkers and bicyclists. The Town of Marion has submitted a PIF regarding their portion of the project, and construction on their portion could begin in the near future. The Wareham section would require a feasibility study because of the cranberry bogs and waterways adjacent to portions of the route. It is hoped that portions of the Wareham section will be under construction within one to two years. The Bike Path Study Committee members intend to keep the Road Commissioners apprised as planning continues, especially as regards public safety issues along the route.

House Numbering: The Recording Secretary read a letter from the Building Commissioner outlining his concerns regarding property numbering and the lack thereof. Discussion followed relative to the Road Commissioners' responsibilities under the Town Charter regarding property numbering. Chief Walsh reported that a meeting on this issue was scheduled for January 13, 2016 involving town departments and public safety officials. He suggested at least one Road Commissioner attend this meeting. Motion by Member Heaney to have a representative attend. Seconded by Recording Secretary McGonnell. Vote: 7-0-0. Members McGonnell and Smith volunteered to attend and will report back.

Roadway Blockages and Encroachments: Discussion was had regarding concerns of the Building Commissioner on roadway blockages and encroachments. This issue would require bylaw changes, and will be discussed at a future meeting when the Building Commissioner can attend. The matter was tabled indefinitely.

Old Business:

Pavement Cutting and Trench Openings: Member Menard reported that he is still working on regulations regarding pavement cutting and trench openings and has scheduled future meetings with representatives of various town departments and utility companies. He requested the matter be tabled to a future Road Commission meeting when his proposals are complete.

Twelfth Street: Discussion regarding ongoing parking problems on Twelfth Street (especially on the narrower portions of the roadway) with vehicles being parked on the sidewalks. Following discussion, Member Heaney made a motion to post the entire even-numbered side of Twelfth Street "No Parking." Seconded by Recording Secretary McGonnell. Vote: 7-0-0.

Landing Way/Glen Road: Harbormaster Buckminster's written recommendations were discussed. It has been determined that Glen Road is a public way, and Landing Way is a continuation of Glen Road ending at a town-owned parcel off Eleventh Street. Landing Way is a paper street only. The Town will survey the area in order to determine exact boundaries, etc. Vice Chair Menard will investigate further and report back to the Board at a future meeting. No Board action at this time.

Definition of a Driveway: A resident reported that the Planning Board's definition of a driveway is defined as off-street parking for two or more vehicles. No Board action at this time.

Tyler Avenue: Vice Chair Menard reported he has not yet been able to determine the actual layout of the town way portion of Tyler Avenue. When the actual layout is determined, Municipal Maintenance will post appropriate signage.

Onset Parking Program:

South Boulevard: Discussion regarding current restrictions allowing resident and permit parking only. Often, particularly on weekdays, spaces are available, and a number of town residents have complained about being denied on-street parking privileges even after the purchase a beach/dump sticker. Motion by Recording Secretary McGonnell to allow parking on South Boulevard from the Shell Point parking lot to Prospect Avenue with a valid residential beach/dump sticker or a valid parking permit. Seconded by Member Cardoza. Vote 7-0-0.

Old East Boulevard: Discussion relative to a resident's request to exempt portions of Old East Boulevard from the parking program in order to facilitate parking by caregivers for an elderly, infirm resident. It was determined that the resident could obtain a visitor's parking permit which would accommodate any caregivers. Motion by Recording Secretary McGonnell to leave the current restrictions in place. Seconded by Member Smith. Vote: 7-0-0.

Handicapped Parking: Discussion regarding Harbormaster Buckminster's request for a handicapped parking spot on Onset Avenue adjacent to the crosswalk to the Town Pier. Vice Chair Menard believes there is adequate room for a full handicapped parking spot. He will measure and report back to the Board. No Board action at this time.

East Boulevard: John Cornish, a property owner on East Boulevard, stated that he has owned the property for a number of years, and there have only been parking issues in the last two years (since the implementation of the Onset Parking Program). He further advised that residents may obtain up to four visitor parking permits, but commercial property owners are not afforded the same privilege. Mr. Cornish expressed a desire to have the conflict between residential and commercial property owners in the area resolved to everyone's satisfaction prior to the summer season.

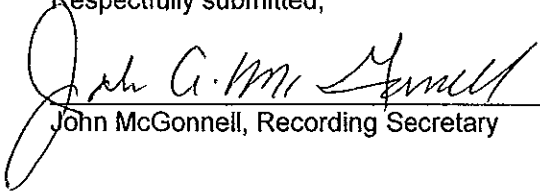
Several other area residents indicated a preference to keep the parking on the left side of the street so as to not disturb the bluff area. Member Heaney suggested that a meeting between residential and commercial property owners be arranged so that residential and commercial property owners could make constructive suggestions for overall improvements and resolve confrontations and disputes regarding parking in the congested East Boulevard area.

Any Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Member Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Member Cardoza. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m. by a vote of 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



John McGonnell, Recording Secretary

These Minutes were reviewed and accepted by unanimous vote at the meeting of the Board of Road Commissioners held on February 9, 2016.