

**Town of Wareham  
BOARD OF ROAD COMMISSIONERS  
Tuesday, December 8, 2015**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**Location:** The Wareham Board of Road Commissioners meeting of December 8, 2015 was held in Room 27 of Memorial Town Hall.

**Members Present:** Members present: William Heaney, Recording Secretary John McGonnell, Vice Chair David Menard, David Pichette, Howard Smith and Police Chief Kevin Walsh. Also present: Harbormaster Garry Buckminster, approximately 20 residents and one member of the press. Member Joseph Cardoza arrived at 4:10 p.m. Town Administrator Derek Sullivan arrived at 4:25 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 October 13, 2015 were reviewed. Motion by Member Smith to accept the Minutes, seconded by Member Pichette. Vote: 6-0-0. (Note: There was no meeting in November 2015.)

**New Business:**

**Welcome:** New member William Heaney was welcomed to the Board by Vice Chair Menard and other members.

**Correspondence:** Correspondence from the Selectmen's Office regarding discontinuation of North Avenue was read into the record. No action required.

**Tyler Avenue:** The parking situation on Tyler Avenue in the vicinity of Cranberry Highway was discussed. Chief Walsh made a motion that Municipal Maintenance check the Town layout of the roadway and post the area appropriately. Seconded by Member Pichette. Vote: 6-0-0.

**Main Street:** Discussion was held regarding the parking situation on Main Street in the vicinity of the Decas School athletic fields creating hazardous conditions particularly during events. Motion by Recording Secretary McGonnell to post the even-numbered side of Main Street from the I-195 Bridge to the first driveway of the Decas School "No Parking." Seconded by Member Pichette. Vote: 6-0-0.

**Pavement Cutting and Trench Openings:** Discussion was held concerning the needs for standards and requirements for pavement cutting and trench openings on public ways. Municipal Maintenance Director Menard reported on-going problems and will suggest regulations and standards at a future meeting. No action at this time.

**Old Business:**

**Minot Avenue Enforcement and Signage:** The Board was advised of an e-mail received from a resident of the area thanking the Board of Road Commissioners and the Police Department for the new speed regulations and continued enforcement.

At this time, the regular meeting was suspended and the Public Hearing was opened.

**PUBLIC HEARING Regarding Onset Parking Program:** Called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Menard.

Harbormaster Buckminster gave an overview of a number of topics he felt needed adjustment to improve the overall Onset Parking Program. He stated there were far fewer complaints received this year than in the past and reiterated that it would take approximately five years to fully adjust all the components of the program. He is contemplating implementing four distinct parking zones, which would involve 886 commercial and residential properties (many of them multiple-occupancy). Following the Harbormaster's presentation and after some questions and input from the Board, Vice Chair Menard asked if anyone wished to speak.

Residents then commented on a number of issues relative to the parking program, some indicating dissatisfaction with the current regulations and some commenting on the positive effects. Several complained of being residents/taxpayers in Wareham and not being allowed to park in certain areas, even with a beach/dump sticker. Complaints were also made concerning confusing signage (relating to dates and times), and additional complaints were made relative to the abuse of permits by holders and lack of overall enforcement. Another complaint was made regarding the lack of public information regarding the parking program which resulted in general confusion by residents and visitors. Harbormaster Buckminster indicated that the local papers publish information and advised people can also consult [ParkWareham.com](http://ParkWareham.com) for additional information.

A resident of Old East Boulevard requested that the area in the vicinity of #37 should be removed from the restricted area as the only time there are parking issues in this neighborhood are during the Cape Verdean Festival and the Fourth of July fireworks. A resident of Whitemore Avenue called attention to conflicting signage in that area and a problem with cars and trailers parking on the nearby hillside creating erosion problems. A general discussion was then held between Board members and the public on a number of topics, particularly involving East Boulevard.

Vice Chair Menard closed the Public Hearing at 5:48 p.m., and the regular meeting was resumed.

The Board members then discussed the various suggestions and points raised by Harbormaster Buckminster and the residents.

**East Boulevard:** The Board members discussed a number of issues involving East Boulevard and possible changes to the parking program. No action taken at this time. The matter will be revisited at a later meeting after a determination is made by Town Counsel as to the definition of what constitutes a driveway. The Board will also address the issue of use and abuse of parking passes and penalties for violations thereof at a later meeting.

**Twelfth Street:** Discussion was held regarding prohibiting parking on Twelfth Street, in particular the concerns of the Onset Fire Department. The matter was tabled until the January 2016 meeting in order to give Board members an opportunity to personally view the street.

**Highland Avenue:** Discussion was held relative to the recommendation by Harbormaster Buckminster to post Highland Avenue in the area of the Boys & Girls Club (from the fenced playground area to Eleventh Street) to create a 30-minute parking zone from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with no restrictions after 6:00 p.m. Motion as to same was made by Member Heaney and seconded by Recording Secretary McGonnell. Vote: 7-0-0.

**Onset Avenue:** Discussion was held regarding the two current parallel parking spaces on Onset Avenue in the vicinity of the public restrooms just prior to the angled parking spaces. Motion was made by Member Smith to make those two parallel spaces 30-minute parking from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with no restrictions after 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Member Cardoza. Vote 7-0-0.

**South Boulevard:** Discussion was held relative to the recommendation of Harbormaster Buckminster to create a two-hour parking zone on South Boulevard from Prospect Avenue to the posted 15-minute

parking zone near Onset Avenue. Motion as to same was made by Recording Secretary McGonnell and seconded by Member Cardoza. Vote: 6-0-1.

**Abuse of Parking Stickers and Passes:** A brief discussion was held relative to the abuse of parking stickers and passes. Following discussion, a motion was made by Chief Walsh to table the matter until the new zones are created and penalties for violations are established. Seconded by Member Cardoza. Vote: 7-0-0.

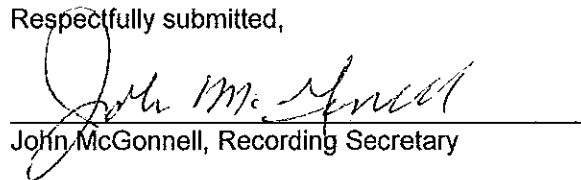
**Landing Way/Glen Road:** A brief discussion was held regarding issues on Landing Way/Glen Road in the area of Eleventh Street. There is a question as to which roadway is actually accepted, and the matter was tabled until the January 2016 meeting.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Recording Secretary McGonnell moved to adjourn. Seconded by Member Heaney. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 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 January 12, 2016.