



TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP

Remote Participation Via Zoom

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020

Order Regarding Open Meeting Law

Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

www.nantucket-ma.gov

~~ Minutes ~~

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Staff in attendance: Lines and Signs Foreman Ray Sylvia; Town Minute Taker Terry Norton
Attending Members: Arthur Gasbarro (chairman); Jack Gardner (vice chairman); Fire Chief Steve Murphy; Chief William Pittman, Nantucket Police Department; Commission on Disability Chair Milton Rowland; Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Rob McNeil

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called to order at 10:30 a.m.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

- Review request for curb cut at 3 West Chester Street, eliminating less than one on-street parking space.
 - Documentation Emails from Jeff Blackwell; revised site plan; application for curb cut; GIS map; photo; site plan
 - Discussion **Gasbarro** – At the end of the last discussion, it was determined the plan did not meet with standard practice for off-set of on-street parking.
Jeff Blackwell, Blackwell & Assoc. – Reviewed the revised plan showing 2 off-street parking spaces: one is 7X17 and the other 9X20.
 - Action **Motion to Approve.** (made by: McNeil) (seconded)
 - Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Gardner, McNeil, Murphy, Rowland, Pittman, and Gasbarro-aye
- Review request for additional “No Parking This Side” sign on west side of Pine Street between Lyon Street and Jefferson Lane.
 - Documentation Email from Joe LaBarge
 - Discussion **Joe LaBarge**, 37 Pine Street – There are no parking lines on the east side of Pine but none on the west side; there is an existing no-parking this side at the corner of Jefferson and Pine and is often missed. Asking for a new sign about mid street and/or moving the existing sign; also, no-parking lines would be helpful starting at the north corner of our property extending south to Jefferson Street.
Gasbarro – Without a graphic, he’s not sure where the lines would go. He doesn’t believe this would be establishing no parking where parking is currently allowed. Asked if DPW could address this without further action.
McNeil – He hasn’t been to the site to check the status of the markings. We would have to do a field visit.
Sylvia – He dropped the ball in not putting in the workorder to move the existing sign. The yellow line doesn’t take away any existing parking and could run corner to corner for the whole block.
Murphy – There’s a cross walk that should keep people from parking on that side.
 - Action **Motion to Approve installation of signs and lines.** (made by: Gardner) (seconded)
 - Roll-call Vote Carried 5-1//Gardner, McNeil, Rowland, Pittman, and Gasbarro-aye; Murphy-nay

3. Review request for yellow no parking line on Mill Street across from No. 15.

Documentation Emails from Chuck Davis; aerial photo; street view photos

Discussion **Chuck Davis**, 15 Mill Street – A lot of cars park across the street from us at the Land Bank property; it’s sometimes difficult to impossible to get out of our driveway. Asking for a yellow line across from his driveway. In 2019 the meeting minutes indicate lines were to be put in at Prospect Street and at New Dollar Lane.

McNeil – This area has been scrutinized for public safety access and parking. He’d like to know what the minutes say about fairly recent approval for Mill Street.

Gasbarro – The TSWG did not want to take away more parking but wanted to see how it went with the approved lines.

Murphy – At 13 Mill Street, there is turning space. If that isn’t the case, it should be individually addressed. He would be against a yellow line in this location.

Gasbarro – The past practice has been a short segment of yellow line; this would be a recommendation to the Town Manager then to the Select Board because it eliminates on-street parking. If this is to go to the Select Board, we need an enhanced graphic better defining the length and location of the line and dimensions of the driveway and turning space.

Murphy – We have that policy for driveways on smaller streets; the packet photo shows a car sitting 2 to 3 feet into the road. Without a plan showing the dimensions, he can’t support this.

McNeil – Google Earth photo looks like there is space to get an emergency vehicle through. It looks like landscape rails have been placed as bumpers along the grass fields.

Gardner – The photo with the trailer indicates there’s enough room to get in and out of the driveway.

Gasbarro – There is no support to recommend Mr. Davis’ request. If he wants to pursue this, he should start with a survey and a plan with dimensions to include his F-150 with turning radius.

Action **Tabled to the next meeting with additional information.**

Roll-call Vote N/A

4. Review requests of Siasconset Civic Association: explain designation of no parking areas; speed-related sign requests

Documentation Emails from Lynn Filipski; speed-related sign requests

Discussion **Lynn Filipski**, Siasconset Civic Association – We did a survey that shows not all areas have both yellow lines and signs and that some signs are faded. Parking in the historic district is problematic not that we have been designated “Best Beach in the Northeast.” If you want to review the survey on your own, that would be helpful.

McNeil – He doesn’t know if signs are required for NPD officers to take action. We are happy to look where updates are needed depending on if it is an enforcement issue or maintenance issue.

Gasbarro – The point of discussion would be about where anything additional is needed.

Pittman – The only requirement is that the no parking area is clearly identified either with a line or a sign.

Gasbarro – We are looking at the areas where there are missing yellow lines or signs; for those areas we would need clear graphics as similarly requested for the last discussion in order to make a recommendation.

Filipski – Our subcommittee and traffic and parking could provide more information as requested. Noted that Codfish Park Road is rather urgent.

Sylvia – Where signs need to be replaced, someone called the sign on Ocean Avenue in and they have been replaced. He will be putting in work order for other signs he is seeing in the survey.

Filipski – The second part is to look at areas with sign issues regarding speed. We went back to the high-traffic areas that would benefit. We are trying to be strategic and not litter ‘Sconset with

signs but would like TSWG to consider the requested signs. Even with the pandemic, we've seen a huge increase in traffic. Reviewed locations for new traffic warning signs.

Gasbarro – If this is supported by TSWG and recommended to the Town Manager, he believes other approvals would be required.

McNeil – Maintenance wise, we are clear about taking care of line work before summer, similarly with existing signs. Any new signs, by the time it makes it to us for installation, they've been rigorously reviewed. We just went through a massive island-wide removal of signs regarding speed in favor of 25-MPH except where otherwise posted. That especially benefited 'Sconset.

Filipski – The Baxter Road sign request is the result of a petition after someone's dog was killed and the driver didn't stop; we are seeing similar speeding on Low Beach Road. People need to be reminded they are in a thickly settled area. We are more concerned about safety than congested signage. Asked how the Town will ensure safety in a village that has massive traffic in July and August.

McNeil – Asked if there's been feedback about the line safety at the end of Milestone Road at the 'Sconset Rotary; they installed a painted island to keep people in the rotary.

Filipski – It has helped but we still see violations from trucks who drive over the rotary. The decals for the bike lanes on Main Street are helpful for pedestrians.

Pittman – On the issue of no-parking enforcement, traffic regulations require that there has to be a sign for officers to enforce no parking, not just a yellow line.

Gasbarro – There are competing interests between traffic safety and historic scenic views. We do have to consider safety. He'd like to hold this over for the next meeting to think about how to approach the signs. The types of signs raise another consideration – are they regulatory or advisory; advisory signs could be more of a Nantucket style.

Murphy – He would like to forward the information to the Sign Advisory Committee (SAC), Historic District Commission (HDC), and Nantucket Historical Commission (NHC) for their input.

Filipski – She's worked closely with the 'Sconset Historic Trust and 'Sconset Advisory Board and have provided plans to them. Most of the proposed new signage is to the side of the 'Sconset historic district, which we treat with kid gloves.

Murphy – He's willing to motion this information be forwarded to the appropriate boards.

Gasbarro – By consensus, he's willing to reach out to the chairs of the HDC and NHC as well as the SAC.

Action **Tabled to the next meeting with additional information.**

Roll-call Vote N/A

5. Review Department of Public Works proposal for NRTA bus stop on Old South Road outbound at 2 Fairgrounds Road.

Documentation Email thread re: Waitt Drive/bus pull-off on Old South Road; proposed site plan

Discussion **McNeil** – Waitt Drive project is projected to start this spring and will come all the way through to exit onto Old South Route. Improving the driveway into 2 Fairgrounds Road should be part of Phase I of the project with sidewalks as well as a NRTA pull off on the out-bound side of Old South Road. Access from the drive to parking in front of the building is to remain as is until later.

Gasbarro – Getting in and out of 2 Fairgrounds Road is a safety concern with vegetation and layout. Suggested squaring off the access to the parking to closer to 90° into the access road. He supports the overall concept. The angled bike crossing at the corner of Fairgrounds Road could also be squared off.

McNeil – This crosswalk area was to be redesigned when the roundabout was being considered. Reviewed what some proposed upgrades to the intersection might be in lieu of the roundabout.

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Murphy – He also likes this overall; if someone comes out of Waitt Drive and there's a bus in that spot, he's concerned the visibility would be impacted. Asked the distance between the stop sign and the pull off.

McNeil – About 70 feet between Waitt and the pull off and about 100 feet between Fairgrounds Road and the pull off. We will be clearing vegetation for the proposed sidewalk, which will improve the sight distance. Between Fairgrounds and the driveway, there will be a mountable berm.

Rowland – Back to the interior T intersection, asked if that sidewalk is ADA accessible.

McNeil – Yes.

Paula Leary, Executive Director NRTA – She thinks this will be great. She had suggested, from a user standpoint, it's great for out-bound; but if we want to get people to use the bus, we will need an in-bound bus stop. Could improve the in-bound stop at the water company.

McNeil – The nearest in-bound stop is opposite Amelia Drive; the idea is that people could access the in-bound stop at Amelia by going down Amelia and through the woods to 2 Fairgrounds Road parking.

Leary – People aren't going to walk ½ mile through the woods to the bus stop at Amelia Drive. She would like to be brought into the planning for any road improvements so that bus stops can be considered.

Pittman – A couple of months ago, Town Manager instructed that commercial vehicles wouldn't park at the improved 2 Fairgrounds Road parking, that it would be a commuter only lot. We looked at the lot and noticed there were few private vehicles, the majority were commercial. One proposal to the Select Board was to impose paid parking with a higher rate for commercial vehicles, to encourage them to park at the Airport, and to offer free parking for private vehicles during the day; we haven't heard back from Select Board and any implementation would be in 2022. Unless there is convenient access to a shuttle in the lot or driveway, it won't work.

Leary – We don't have the equipment to run a shuttle through the lot. The ferry connector was very successful and grew until funding for it stopped. Chief Pittman is correct; people parking in the lot will not use the Amelia Drive bus stops.

Gasbarro – He fully supports the improvements to the access; his only question is if the bus stop will be utilized and is needed.

Action **Motion to support proposal put forth by DPW with adjustments as discussed.** (made by: Gardner) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Gardner, McNeil, Rowland, Pittman, Murphy, and Gasbarro-aye

6. Review request for possible traffic calming devices at North Liberty Street.

Documentation Email from Randy Day; GIS map

Discussion **Gasbarro** – Submitted by Randy Day of 2 North Liberty Street asking for speed bumps at the corner of Lily Street and Liberty Street.

Gardner – That is very narrow through there and traffic should not be going fast there. He doesn't see the need for speed bumps.

Gasbarro – He agrees, and it seems to be the consensus. It might be helpful to have a motion not to support

Action **Motion not to support installing traffic calming devices.** (made by: Murphy) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Gardner, McNeil, Rowland, Pittman, Murphy, and Gasbarro-aye

V. OTHER BUSINESS (Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting)

1. **McNeil** – He wants to revise the four locations proposed for motorcycle/motorscooter parking. Asked where it stands. We'd like to take action before summer.

Pittman – The way it sounds, the Town again will want to block off areas downtown for dining; he can't see doing both.

McNeil - Out of the four, Cambridge Street would be affected by outdoor dining. Suggested putting the other three before the Select Board.

Gasbarro – Ms. Mooney reached out me for a meeting to go over outstanding items; he will go over this with her. He recalls TSWG approved the four sites.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of November 19, 2020.

Action **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: McNeil) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Gardner, McNeil, Pittman Rowland, Murphy, and Gasbarro-aye

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Action **Motion to Adjourn at 12:18 p.m.** (made by: Pittman) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 6-0//Gardner, McNeil, Rowland, Pittman, Murphy, and Gasbarro-aye

List of additional documents used at the meeting:

1. Draft minutes for November 19, 2020