

Town and County of Nantucket
ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Posted Meeting of
March 21, 2023, at 4:00 pm
Held by Zoom Videoconferencing

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of Minutes, and Public Comments.

A. Chair Bill Grieder called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. In attendance were Committee Members Rick Atherton (left at 5:01 pm), Bill Grieder, Nat Lowell, Rob Ranney, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Phil Smith; there was a quorum at all times. Also in attendance was Bruce Mandel, Guest.

Absent: Nelson, “Snookie,” Eldridge, and Ed Gillum.

At 4:04 pm, Bill Grieder’s internet connection dropped out and Vice-Chair Allen Reinhard conducted the meeting until the connection was restored at 4:08 pm. All committee members present responded to an attendance roll call. Bill Grieder’s attendance was noted when his connection was restored. Inasmuch as Allen Reinhard was an emergency host, he could not start the recording. Bill Grieder did so as soon as he returned. The recording, which can be viewed on the Town’s You Tube site (on Town’s main web page as “Watch Meetings Live”, select “Playlists” then look for “Roads and Right of Way”), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUNK0eDPUBU&list=PL49sKqpy7VAi_AAzhvnU4I5DTnhiVDj1&index=32 , began at 4:08 pm.

B. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously by acclamation.

C. Public Comments.

None.

D. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2023.

Rick Atherton moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2023, Nat Lowell seconded, and the committee voted positively by roll-call vote to approve them. Rob Ranney and Phil Smith abstained because they were not present at the January meeting.

After approval, Rick Atherton asked, with respect to “Item 2. Ken Beaugrand Comments”, if anyone knew the dimensions of the easement proposed for Stone Alley in Article 101 of the

forthcoming Annual Town Meeting. Lee Saperstein learned that the plan is on the Town's web site and it has been copied and attached to these minutes.

2. Francis Street Beach Concession Lease.

Bill Grieder introduced this topic by saying that the material attached to the agenda, the "Agenda Packet (included in the committee's pages on the Town's website)," included a copy of his letter to the Town on the lease and lease conditions for a concession on the Francis Street Beach. He was not satisfied with the Town's response, which was that the lease protected the Town and the public's access to the beach. He reminded the committee members that he had circulated photographs taken last summer that showed a disregard for the public's access to the beach and the water. Because the lease permits 40 feet of beach for the concession, he will measure that width for an assessment of compliance next summer. Allen Reinhard agreed that enforcement was key and that we should continue to monitor it during the summer months. Nat Lowell said that he knew the lessee and would speak to him, which is something we should do before we make any formal complaints. Committee members agreed with this plan of action.

3. Harbor Walk Access Points.

Bill Grieder asked Lee Saperstein to tell about his walk along the harbor front and available access to the Chapter 91-protected intertidal lands. Lee Saperstein shared a sketch map of the Harbor Walk and indicated that it was probably too inclusive. To explain, he said that starting from the Creeks or from the new Land-Bank park on the Hays property and moving northwestward, all was well until Steamboat Wharf. The designated walkway around the Great Harbor Yacht Club was a fine addition to the walk as are the signs on the various wharfs that make up the Boat Basin. The Harbor Walk continues to the new park on Easy Street and then stops at Steamboat Wharf; walkers must continue on North Beach Street until Harbor Way and then go up to Children's Beach and the boat ramp before continuing alongside the Harbor. The walkway alongside of the White Elephant Hotel (50 Easton Street) stops at a barricade against 46 Easton Street even though there is an intertidal beach on that property. The drop from the walkway to the beach is too deep for access. Indeed, the beach stretches up to 34 Easton Street and its finger pier. The finger pier at 42A and B Easton Street even has steps to allow walkers to cross it if they could get down to the beach.

Lee Saperstein said that most of the Easton Street properties were under construction and not safe for crossing to the harbor side. The Coast Guard property at 10 Easton Street was said by a Coast Guarder to be federal land and not available for walking. The waterfront from 2 to 6 Easton Street, including the Town's Shellfish Hatchery, is accessible. In closing, he suggested that we ask the Planning Department to notify all land owners from 16 to 46 Easton Street of their obligations under Chapter 91 and that it was hoped that, once construction was complete, the Harbor Walk would once again be available to walkers.

Bill Grieder asked if anyone remembered the conversations held in the Select Board about a walk alongside of the water at the Nantucket Yacht Club. Rick Atherton said that he was a Board Member at that time. Concerns over visitor safety and property security may have led to an impasse. Also, the Steamship Authority noted that their property against the Yacht Club's fence was where trucks are constantly being arranged for loading onto the ferry and would, therefore, be very unsafe for a pedestrian way onto the Yacht Club's property. It was suggested that we ask the Town's Planning Head, Andrew Vorce, for additional information. Lee Saperstein agreed to send him an e-mail message with the committee's questions.

Lee Saperstein then recalled that ReMain Nantucket had engaged a consultant to draft a plan for a Harbor Walk and that it had been shared with the Committee a few years ago. He will write to ReMain to tell them of the Committee's continued interest in the walk and to ask if they have any new information on their project. Bill Grieder noted that, before he left, former Transportation Planner, Patrick Reed had shared his Transition Document in which, among many other things, there is reference to the In-Town Bike Path along Orange Street, which is a multi-phase project and the next phase is due to begin. This project will increase the length of the bike lane along Orange Street in front of Marine Home Center. Allen Reinhard said that the Land Bank has increased its holdings along Washington Street and may, in time, be able to connect a waterside path along them.

4. ATM Article 71 Bike Path

Bill Grieder next called on Bruce Mandel to discuss his proposed Warrant Article in the Annual Town Meeting to amend Chapter 98 of the Town's Code, "Motorized Passenger Devices;" his proposal was attached to the Agenda Packet. The final form of the Warrant lists his proposal as Article 72, "Bylaw Amendment: Motorized Passenger Devices." He noted, as written in the supplement he provided for the packet, that there are two main purposes of his amendment to the bylaws. The first was to expand the list of devices to include all those devices that have been developed recently and the second was add to bike paths, sidepaths, and multi-use paths to the ways on which they may not be ridden. He noted that some of the new e-bikes have a top speed of 40mph. Lee Saperstein asked if the Finance Committee had made a recommendation on it and was told that they moved not to adopt it. Amongst other things, issues on the difficulty of enforcement supported their negative recommendation. Asked, then, if he intended to call the article at the meeting, Bruce Mandel thought that, without support from the Town, he probably would not call it. Nat Lowell added that speeding vehicles on sidewalks and sidepaths were a real problem; he sympathized with Bruce Mandel but agreed that enforcement of any bylaw on motorized passenger devices, including the current version, was difficult. He suggested that we reach out to the Traffic Safety Work Group; Bruce Mandel added the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Lee Saperstein said that both of those committees included Mike Burns, Transportation Planner; perhaps he could attend our April meeting and advise us about the viability of the propose Article 72. Bill Grieder agreed and said that he would invite Mike Burns to our next meeting.

5. Public Way Monument Materials + Land Bank Involvement Update.

6. Update on a Long-Time Project of RROW: New Walking Trails Across the Island.

Bill Grieder said that Allen Reinhard is reporting on both of these topics so he has combined them. Allen Reinhard noted that the Land Bank has developed walkways in and around West Chester Street Extension and are getting ready to emplace two upright Public Way monuments at either end of that way, i.e., at its intersections with Crooked Lane and Wannacomet Road. Moving to walking trails, he recounted how the number of trails have expanded exponentially since he joined the predecessor committee 30 years ago. Of late, the Conservation Foundation and the Land Bank have added many more new trails, including the Cross-Island Trail from Hoicks Hollow to Settlers Landing. He mentioned, also, the work that this committee did for the sidewalk survey that resulted in a five-million dollar capital project to repair sidewalks in the downtown area. In response to Lee Saperstein’s question about a unified map of all trails, he said that it was a work in progress while the new trails are added to the data base.

7. Old, New, and Other Business, and Member Comments.

‘Sconset Bluff Walk Subcommittee Review Update: Because Ed Gillum could not attend today’s meeting, Bill Grieder said that he was deferring a report from the subcommittee (Ed Gillum, Nat Lowell, and Allen Reinhard) until the next meeting.

8. Adjourn.

Adjournment, which was at 5:31 pm, was moved by Nat Lowell, seconded by Rob Ranney, and approved unanimously.

The Next meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. It will be by Zoom video call only.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary _____ Date _____

Roads & ROW Ongoing Projects List:

Public Way Monument Project: (Lee & Allen & Snookie)

Install remaining monuments at Sconset Footpath, Hulbert Ave., and other locations

- Need scheduling with DPW

Update file of existing monuments

- In progress
- Move monuments at Westchester St. Ext. & Crooked Lane
- Need to coordinate with Land Bank

Sidewalk Projects: (Lee & Allen)

- Prospect St. (sidewalk to Upper Vestal St.) to Madaket bike path
- Referred to Transportation Planner
- Cliff Rd. Coffin Park to bike path at Sherburne Tpk.
- Request sent to Selectboard to add to future sidewalk list
- Pleasant St. Gardner Perry Lane to Williams St.
- Referred to Transportation Planner
- Lovers Lane Bike path/ road reconstruction
- Bids received over budget – need additional funding
- Follow implementation of downtown sidewalk improvements
- Updates provided by DPW representative to RROW
- Bike/Pedestrian connection from Surfside to Hummock Pond to Madaket paths
- Land takings completed – needs Town Meeting funding

Chapter 91 Monitor Project: (Lee, Rick, Phil)

- GIS department head Nathan Porter working to make available online Harbor Walk Project, list of permits and approvals
- Plan presented to Selectboard – ReMain Nantucket providing assistance
- Identify Chapter 91 licenses along route for the Harbor Walk
- In progress
- Locate other locations on waterfronts requiring licenses
- Request sent to ConCom to copy RROW on any received applications or notices

Nantucket Greenway and Trail System Project: (Allen, Lee)

- Nantucket Central Railroad trail map of existing portions of route
- Locations identified at Easy Street, Washington Street extension, Naushop development and Bayberry Commons to Surfside
- Island Trail Map with all walking trails
- In progress

Sconset Bluff Walk Review: (Allen, Ed, Nat)

- update sign verbiage?
- Increase sign locations?
- Increase maintenance?
- Survey path?
- Identify encroachments?

