

JAMESTOWN TRAFIC COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:03 PM by Chairman, Thomas P. Tighe.

The following members were present:

David Cain, Member
William Munger
Timothy Yentsch

Also present were:

Chief Edward Mello
Denise Jennings, Clerk

Absent:

Melissa Mastrostefano, Member
Mary E. Meagher, Vice-Chair.
Vincent Moretti, Member

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) **08/18/15 minutes** (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to accept the 08/18/15 regular meeting minutes. Motion so voted, 2 in favor; Committee members Tighe and Cain abstained. Committee members Tighe and Cain were absent at said meeting.

OPEN FORUM

A) Scheduled requests to address:

(None scheduled)

A) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

(None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) **Four-Way Stop Sign Installation** at the corner of **Columbia Avenue and Windsor Avenue**: request of Brian Cotsonas due to speeding vehicles

Stephanie Cotsonas of 24 Columbia Avenue stated the following:

- Her husband was the one who originally requested the four-way stop at the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street.
- She has been monitoring traffic in the area and the average speed is 23 mph.
- There are many children in the neighborhood and 23 mph is too fast.
- She also has concerns about the number of commercial vehicles from McQuade's Market, although speed is her main concern.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the traffic flow in the area of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street.

Chief Mello stated the following:

- He has monitored the commercial vehicles traveling through the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street and he feels that if the loading area at McQuade's Market was cleaned up a bit, it may make access easier for the commercial vehicles and may also allow for more vehicles in that area.
- He suggested that he speak with McQuade's Market regarding this matter.
- His staff has monitored the traffic flow on Windsor Street through the intersection of Columbia Avenue. 150 cars traveled on Windsor Street through the intersection, in a 12 hour period (approximately 10 cars per an hour).
- This amount of vehicles and 23 mph is much higher than he had expected.

Chief Mello further stated that he feels that most people naturally avoid West Street, due to congestion. Committee Member Munger stated that erecting a four-way stop would be something new to consider for a few intersections. Chief Mello stated that his department would be reviewing all stops and that the intersection of High Street and Howland Avenue may be another prospect for a four-way stop.

Brief discussion ensued regarding other alternatives such as the new sign at the school crossing at North Road and Watson Avenue.

Motion was made by Committee member Yentsch, seconded by Committee member Cain to make recommendation to the Town Council as follows:

- To have restrictions set on commercial delivery vehicles proceeding from the south side of McQuade's Market to the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street.
- To make the intersection of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street a four way stop.
- To add enhanced warning signage in the area of the intersection of the Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street.

Motion so unanimously voted.

A) Crosswalk at Conanicus Avenue between the Recreation Center/Teen Center and Ferry Wharf

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting on 10/20/15.

B) Route 95 Direction Sign at Route 138 and East Shore Road (to Cross Island Expressway): discussion necessity and potential request to RI State Traffic Commission for determination of need and installation

Committee Chairman Tighe asked Chief Mello for a status report. Chief Mello stated that he would make a formal request to the RI Department of Transportation for this signage.

C) Commercial Vehicle Parking in residential zones: additional review of regulations for parking in residential areas backing up, exhaust fumes, overnight parking)

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting on 10/20/15.

D) **Watson Avenue: north side parking restriction** of 40 ft from the intersection of Pemberton Avenue (possible reduction/relief)

At the recommendation of the Chief Mello, it was the consensus of the Committee not to make any changes to the current parking restrictions at this time.

E) **Motorcycle/Scooter/Bicycle Parking** (East Ferry)

The Committee briefly discussed the current usage of the parking spaces. At the recommendation of the Chief Mello, it was the consensus of the Committee not to take any action at this time and to remove this item from the agenda until further notice from Chief Mello.

F) **Jamestown Shores** (North/Garboard Street to Bridge/other Shores Areas) **Parking regulations/revisions**

The Committee stepped away from the Committee table to review a map of the Jamestown Shores area parking/revisions as supplied by Chief Mello. Chief Mello suggested that the same principle be followed as the previously adopted regulations for the Hull Street/Seaside Drive area. Chief Mello briefly outlined the area for discussion and recommended the following:

- No parking on Seaside Drive from Hull Street to Garboard Street.
- No parking on Spirketing Street, as outlined by Chief Mello.
- No parking on the even side of the streets in the area, as outlined Chief Mello.
- Continue the waiver process for overnight parking, as previously adopted for the Hull Street/Seaside Drive area.
- To review the Head's Beach area in the Jamestown Shores at the next meeting in October.

Chief Mello stated that he does not want to overload the neighborhoods with signage.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the rights-of-way, parking restrictions and signage. The Committee returned to the Committee table.

NEW BUSINESS

A) **West Ferry Parking**

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting on 10/20/15.

B) **Parking concerns – Green Lane**

Donna Cameron of 22 Union Street and owner of property located at 6, 7 and 10 Green Lane stated the following:

- She had major problems with people parking on Green Lane this summer.
- Her tenants have no place to park and sometimes have to park in the former Bank of America lot or elsewhere.
- She is concerned about the future of the former Bank of America building.
- She requested that 3 spaces be designated for her tenants, during prime parking season.

Ms. Cameron asked the Committee if parking could be allowed at the ambulance building.

Committee Chairman Tighe stated that the ambulance building is still being used at this time and the future of the site is pending. Committee Chairman Tighe further stated that a complete parking study will be done on the downtown area and that Chief Mello will contact Ms. Cameron at that time.

C) Handicap Parking Space – Conanicus Avenue

Brief discussion ensued regarding the handicapped spaces on state roads, specifically the one located in front of 47 Conanicus Avenue. Committee Chairman Tighe stated that this space was put in by a former shop owner who was handicapped and that is not permitted space. Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Cain to remove the handicapped sign in front of 47 Conanicus Avenue. So unanimously voted.

D) Bicycle Parking at Head’s Beach

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting on 10/20/15.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Cain, seconded by Committee Member Munger to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Clerk

xc: Commission Members (7)
Chief of Police
Town Clerk