

**JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 27, 2020**  
*Approved: January 21, 2021*

**I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order via Zoon <https://zoom.us/j/95074696958> at 5:32PM.**

**II. The following members were present:**

Thomas Tighe, Chairman  
Mary Meagher, Vice-Chairman  
Michael Junge  
Vincent Moretti  
Valerie Southern  
Timothy Yentsch  
Bill Munger

**Also present:**

Police Chief Edward Mello  
Kim Devlin, Clerk

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES**

**A) February 20, 2020**

Chairman Tighe moved to approve the minutes; Member Munger seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**IV. OPEN FORUM**

**A) Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Scheduled Requests to Address.

**B) Non-Scheduled Requests to Address**

There were no Non-Scheduled Requests to Address. Chief Mello verified that no one had joined the meeting.

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Communications.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A) Overnight Parking – Review discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

*(5:33PM Member Southern joined.)*

Chief Mello stated that the revisions to the Overnight Parking Ordinance were done in order to make the ordinance enforceable. Chief Mello stated that there are a number of cars using Town parking lots as their driveways, for example at the Library and the schools and that people are parking campers and larger vehicles on the streets.

Chief Mello is asking for the Committee's approval to bring the ordinance revisions to the Town Council.

*(5:38PM Member Moretti joined.)*

Chief Mello read the ordinance changes.

Member Southern asked Chief Mello if we hadn't covered this already.

Chief Mello stated that we did discuss the overnight parking situation on occasion and that it was forwarded to the Town Council, but Vice-Chairman Meagher requested the matter be brought back to the Traffic Committee, specifically the section regarding parking in the South Shores neighborhood.

A discussion ensued.

Member Munger moved to adopt the changes to the Overnight Parking Ordinance, Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Chief Mello requested that the Committee vote to repeal Section 70-91 - Jamestown Resident Overnight Parking Permit Program.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to repeal Section 70-91 of the Parking Ordinance; Commissioner Junge seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### **A) No Parking Pemberton Avenue (East side) - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chief Mello showed the Committee pictures of cars parked along Pemberton Avenue. Chief Mello stated that the majority of the cars that park along the West side are employees of Atlantic Lawn and Garden, and that it is infrequent for a vehicle to park on the East side. However, when there are cars parked on each side of the street there is only 11' of road between the cars for vehicles to pass.

Chief Mello stated that he is proposing to eliminate parking on the East side of Pemberton Avenue between Narragansett Avenue and Watson Avenue. Chief Mello stated that Pemberton Avenue receives a high volume of rescue calls and to allow parking on both sides of the street is problematic for rescue vehicles.

Member Junge asked Chief Mello if there are issues on other streets and suggested placing a restriction that if a street is less than a certain number of feet wide then parking should only be allowed on one side of the road.

Chief Mello stated that, yes, there are issues elsewhere but that he feels this particular street required immediate attention.

Member Munger stated that he supports Chief Mello's proposal and is also in agreement that other streets need to be addressed.

Member Yentsch stated that there are problems with parking on other streets, but, for example, in the Shores they don't have the density that Pemberton Avenue has and that other streets have different problems.

Member Southern asked if this change will impact other streets in the neighborhood and also whether the community has been informed.

Chief Mello stated that common sense has prevailed the majority of the time and people do not typically park on the East side of Pemberton Avenue anyway, so the impact to other streets will be minimal. Chief Mello stated that the proposed change will be advertised for Public Hearing if and when it goes to the Town Council.

Member Moretti stated that Chief Mello's proposal makes sense, especially since it is a safety issue.

Chairman Tighe asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance change.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to prohibit parking along the East side of Pemberton Avenue between Watson Avenue and Narragansett Avenue; Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays. (Member Munger - aye; Member Moretti - aye; Member Junge - aye; Member Southern - aye, with the proviso that if the Committee is approached about the issue we will look at this more comprehensively; Chairman Tighe - aye; Vice-Chairman Meagher - aye; Member Yentsch - aye.)

### **B) Established Bike Route Freebody Drive and Bayview Drive - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chief Mello stated that he and Public Works Director Mike Grey have been working with the State DOT on improvements on Walcott, specifically at the intersection of High Street. Chief Mello stated that they have asked the State to consider putting in bike routes for the Town.

Chief Mello stated that the State has a global plan to install bike routes across the bridges and various locations throughout the State, but that he and Mike Gray have asked the State to consider a local approach. Chief Mello stated that the idea is to connect the bike path from Eldred Avenue to downtown via Freebody Drive and Bay View Drive. This would keep cars off

of Conanicus Avenue until Bay View Drive and Conanicus Avenue intersect at the seawall. And then begin again on Walcott Avenue from High Street to Ft. Wetherill Road.

Chief Mello shared pictures of the striping plan, along with maps of the discussed roads. The road is 34' wide and the new striping would allow for 11' motor vehicle travel lanes and a 6' bike lane on each side. Chief Mello stated that this will serve two purposes; it will create a visual that the roads are narrower than they are and hopefully slow traffic.

Member Moretti asked Executive Director Chief Mello about the intersection of Bay View Drive and Conanicus Avenue, and the State's response to the request to have that intersection reconfigured to make it safer.

Chief Mello stated that the bike route will help with the perceived speed problem on Bay View Drive and that the State is in the planning stages to re-design the intersection of Bay View Drive and Conanicus Avenue. The signage and encouraging bicyclists to use Freebody Drive and Bay View Drive instead of Conanicus Avenue will also help slow traffic. The State DOT is willing to stripe chevrons on Freebody and Bay View and the Town would be responsible for the signage. The striping could happen within the next 45 days and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity to have the striping done by the State.

Member Munger stated that he supports Chief Mello's plan and it may force some needed repairs on those roads, especially Freebody.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to move forward with the proposed plan for the bike route on Freebody Drive and Bay View Drive; Member Junge seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

The State is currently in possession of a request to install a Stop Sign on Walcott at the High Street intersection, but have not taken action.

**C) No parking vehicles on the Shared Pathway - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chief Mello stated that Public Works Director Mike Grey's crew is finishing paving North Road and that they are requesting the Traffic Committee support the restriction to not allow parking or driving on the bike path. Some houses are using the right of way for parking and there are cars that have attempted to drive down the path.

Executive Director Chief Mello explained that this is an undrafted ordinance that he will write and is trying to be preemptive, so that when the path is complete there will be something in the ordinance that will allow enforcement of these proposed regulations.

Chief Mello stated that Public Works Director Mike Grey has already spoken with the residents that are using the Town right of way as a parking lot and they are not being cooperative.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that this, as with all ordinance changes, will be posted for a Public Hearing with the Town Council.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to approve Chief Mello's request to draft an ordinance to prohibit parking or driving on the bike path; Member Junge seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays. (Chairman Tighe - aye; Member Yentsch - aye; Vice-Chairman Meagher - aye; Member Junge - aye; Member Munger - aye; Member Southern - aye, with the proviso that if there is public concern it will be brought back to the Traffic Committee for further discussion; Member Moretti - aye.)

**VII. OPEN FORUM - CONTINUED**

There was no continued Open Forum.

Member Munger stated that in the minutes of the February meeting the Ambulance Barn was listed under Unfinished Business and stated that he would like to keep that on the radar and have it back on the agenda at the next meeting. Member Munger also asked Vice-Chairman Meagher if the Town Council had discussed the matter at any of their meetings.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that the Town Council has only discussed critical matters since March and have not addressed the Ambulance Barn.

Chief Mello informed the Traffic Committee of the back to school plans, stating that a large percentage of parents will now be driving their children to school so the traffic during drop off and pick up will increase significantly. There have been some improvements to the crosswalks in the area and an emergency order was issued to not allow parking on the West side of Melrose Avenue.

*(Member Southern leaves 6:31PM.)*

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Munger and seconded by Member Moretti to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin  
Clerk