

JAMESTOWN TRAFIC COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:02 PM by Chairman Thomas Tighe.

The following members were present:

David Cain (arrived at 6:16 PM)
Melissa Mastrostefano
Mary E. Meagher
Vincent Moretti
Timothy Yentsch

Also present were:

Chief Edward Mello
Denise Jennings, Clerk

Absent were:

William Munger, Committee Member

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1) **01/20/15 minutes** (regular meeting) (cont. from 03/17/15)
- 2) **03/17/15 minutes** (regular meeting)

Chairman Tighe stated that copies of the minutes were not enclosed in the Committee's packets and suggested that approval be continued to the next meeting in May.

Committee consensus: To continue the approval of the 01/20/15 and 03/17/15 meeting minutes to the next meeting in May.

OPEN FORUM

- 1) Scheduled requests to address:
(None)
- 2) Non-Scheduled requests to address:
(None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1) **On Street Parking Regulations: Jamestown Shores** (cont. from 03/17/15)

Chief Mello reported that it is his plan to prohibit parking on either side of Helm Street, Hull Street and portions of Seaside Drive. Chief Mello briefly described the areas in detail on his visual presentation and stated that currently overnight parking is prohibited on all streets, but is not strictly enforced. Chairman Tighe entertained questions from the Committee members. Committee Member Yentsch asked for clarification regarding when one is in violation, specifically, when two wheels are on grass and two are on asphalt or when all wheels are on asphalt? Chief Mello stated that when two wheels are on asphalt, one is in violation.

6:16 PM-Committee Member Cain arrived.

Brief discussion ensued regarding public right-of-ways. Committee Member Moretti stated that this past weekend he witnessed an EMT vehicle having a difficult time going down a portion of Seaside Drive, due to parking, two-way traffic and the narrowing of the roadway. Chief Mello stated that safe passage is his main concern.

Carol Nelson-Lee of 23 Buoy Street stated that although she does not live in the area of Seaside Drive and does not experience some of the problems as those who live there, she believes that all should have access to the shore. Ms. Nelson-Lee further stated that not everyone can walk to the shore to experience the view or the sunset and those not as spry would need to drive and park and they should be allowed access.

Gary Girard of 39 Seaside Drive stated that choosing what side of the street that will be allowed for parking will be an issue and some residents may be upset. Mr. Girard expressed his confusion as to what right-of-ways were being discussed, such as, designated right-of-ways to the shore or residents right-of-way in front of their residence.

Ken Vario of 33 Seaside Drive expressed his concerns regarding additional restrictions pertaining to parking at his residence. Mr. Vario stated that he already has many restrictions on his property from CRMC, DEM and the Town and that during the summer he has family/friends that visit and would like parking available for them, when needed. Mr. Vario further stated that he hopes that the Town will only restrict parking on one side of the Seaside Drive and not both sides. Brief discussion followed regarding special passes for parking.

Eric Catalozzi of 234 Seaside Drive stated that he agreed with Mr. Vario. Brief discussion ensued regarding the average width of a road, width of a car and road narrowing on Seaside Drive.

Robert Grenier of 65 Hull Street expressed his concerns regarding fishermen urinating behind the bushes, leaving trash and their noise at all hours of the night. Mr. Grenier stated that his problem is not with family/friends parking, it is with fisherman.

Committee Member Meagher asked Chief Mello if he could place the map of the Jamestown Shore's parking plan on the Town website. The Chief stated that he would do this.

Following clarification on a few additional items, Chairman Tighe stated that no action would be taken this evening and discussion will continue at the next meeting in May.

Maggie Grenier of 65 Hull Street asked when this would be implemented. Chairman Tighe stated that it could be implemented approximately 30 days after the Committee makes recommendation to the Town Council.

Brief discussion ensued regarding parking under the Jamestown Bridge and special parking passes for residents for family/friends.

Chairman Tighe asked Chief Mello if he had any suggestions. Chief Mello stated that he would further review parking on one side of the street, deal with inappropriate activity, right-of-ways and special passes for residents for family/friends.

Committee Member Meagher stated that they would try to make a decision on this matter at the next meeting in May, and forward the Committees recommendations to the Town Council with hopes to implement this in June.

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting in May.

Motion was made by Committee Member Meagher, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to discuss item

number **4) under Unfinished Business, Stop Sign at Seaside Drive and Beach Avenue** (cont. from 03/17/15) as the next item of business. So unanimously voted.

Chief Mello stated that it seemed more appropriate and due to current traffic flow, to stop traffic on the Beach Avenue side of the intersection rather than the Seaside Drive. Chief Mello further stated that upon his review of the ordinances, there does not appear to be an ordinance for the stop sign currently at the intersection.

Daniel Lilly of 231 Seaside Drive stated that he supports adding a stop sign to the Beach Avenue side of the intersection, although he would like to keep the stop sign at Seaside Drive. Other neighbors present agreed with Mr. Lilly.

Motion was made by Committee Member Moretti, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to make recommendation to the Town Council that an ordinance be put in place to erect stop signs at both the Seaside Drive and the Beach Avenue intersection. So unanimously voted.

2) **Commercial vehicle parking in residential zones:** Additional review of regulations for parking in residential areas (backing up, exhaust fumes, overnight parking) (cont. from 03/17/15)

Chief Mello stated that he has reviewed the Zoning Ordinance and it states that parking of one commercial vehicle is permitted overnight and the Town Ordinance prohibits on-street parking overnight and that this is a conflict. Brief discussion followed. Committee Member Mastrostefano stated that she needs more information prior to taking an action on this matter.

Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting in May.

3) **Watson Avenue: north side parking restriction of 40 ft. from the intersection of Pemberton Avenue** (possible reduction/relief) (cont. from 03/17/15)

Chief Mello stated that he has reviewed the state regulations, pertaining to parking at intersections with state roads. Chief Mello further stated that parking is prohibited within 20 feet from the intersecting state road and that he needs to discuss this matter further with the Public Works Director. Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next meeting in May.

4) **Stop Sign at Seaside Drive and Beach Avenue** (cont. from 03/17/15)

Previously discussed.

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

Chairman Tighe stated that Committee Member Munger asked that this matter be placed back on the meeting agenda and Committee Member Munger is not present at this evenings meeting. Chairman Tighe further stated that since this is a state road, it will be very difficult to make any changes at this location, due to the line of site. Committee Member Mastrostefano suggested placing flags at the crosswalk, similar to ones used at a neighboring community. Committee Member Mastrostefano briefly described how one would use that flags when crossing the street.

Chairman Tighe suggested continuing this matter to next meeting in May, due to Committee Member Munger's absence this evening. The Committee agreed.

6) **North Main Road** update

Chief Mello reported that the plan for construction on North Main Road is a 3-year program.

NEW BUSINESS

1) **Speed limit** review and discussion

a) **North Main Road** (north of overpass) to Transfer Station-increase from 25 mph

Chief Mello reported that his staff has done several speed studies on North Main Road and that the road condition on several sections of the road, control ones speed and stated that due to the upcoming construction it would be premature to change the speed and the Committee should readdress this matter following completion of the road construction. The Committee Members agreed.

b) **Narragansett Avenue**-decrease from 25 mph to 15 mph

Chief Mello stated that during the day, traffic is slower than the posted 25 mph and at other periods of the day when less congested, 25 mph is okay. Chief Mello recommended not making any changes to Narragansett Avenue speed limits. The Committee Members agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Meagher, seconded by Committee Member Moretti to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Clerk

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