

JAMESTOWN TRAFIC COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:00 PM by Chairman Thomas Tighe.

The following members were present:

David Cain
Melissa Mastrostefano
Mary E. Meagher
Vincent Moretti
William Munger
Timothy Yentsch

Also present were:

Chief Edward Mello
Denise Jennings, Clerk

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) **05/12/15 minutes** (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Committee Member Cain, seconded by Committee Member Munger to accept the 05/12/15 minutes. So unanimously voted.

OPEN FORUM

1) Scheduled requests to address:

(None scheduled)

2) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

Donald Richardson of 12 Davis Street asked for a status report on his request to increase the speed on North Main Road (north of the overpass) and also to reduce the speed on Narragansett Avenue.

Chief Mello stated the following:

- At the 04/21/15 meeting he reported to the Committee that his staff has done several studies on North Main Road.
- The road condition on several sections of the road, control ones speed.
- Due to the upcoming construction it would be premature to change the speed at this time and the Committee will readdress this following the completion of construction. Construction will be complete in approximately 2 years.
- At the 04/21/15 meeting he also reported to the Committee that during a usual day on Narragansett Avenue, the traffic is slower than the posted 25 mph and at other periods of the day when less congested, 25 mph is okay and that he recommended not making any changes to Narragansett Avenue speed limits.

Brief discussion ensued regarding repainting of the stripes on North Main Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) **Commercial vehicle parking in residential zones:** Additional review of regulations for parking in residential areas (backing up, exhaust fumes, overnight parking, continued from 05/12/15)

Committee Chairman Tighe stated that Chief Mello is currently reviewing the Zoning Ordinance. Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next scheduled traffic meeting.

2) **Watson Avenue: north side parking restriction** of 40 ft. from the intersection of Pemberton Avenue (possible reduction/relief) (cont. from 05/12/15)

Chief Mello stated that he continues to review the state regulations, pertaining to parking at intersections with state roads and that he needs to discuss this matter further with the Public Works Director and that he would prefer to continue the discussion. Committee consensus: To continue this matter to the next scheduled traffic meeting.

3) **Crosswalk at Conanicus Avenue between the Recreation/Teen Center and Ferry Wharf** (cont. from 05/12/15)

Chief Mello stated that he had informal conversation with Steve a member of the State Traffic Commission regarding a few actions that the Town could take regarding this crosswalk as follows:

- Clear line of site by trimming some of the trees on the eastern side of Conanicus Avenue leading up to crosswalk in question.
- Add signage.
- Add a traffic pedestrian (a figure/dummy) crossing sign.

Chief Mello further stated that in order to place a traffic pedestrian crossing sign the Town would have to make a request to the State and that the Town already been approved for two signs; one for the intersection of Watson and North and one for Mackerel Cove Beach.

Committee Chairman Tighe suggested that Chief Mello meet with the Town Administrator to discuss his options. Committee Member Munger stated that the trees in question are on his property and he is willing to trim them. Brief discussion ensued regarding signage. Committee Members Munger and Meagher suggested widening the existing crosswalk in addition to adding signage, trimming trees and adding a traffic pedestrian crossing sign.

Committee Chairman Tighe asked Chief Mello to investigate the options discussed this evening and report back to the Committee. The Committee agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

1) **Stop sign installation at the corner of Columbia Avenue and Windsor Street:** Request of Brian Cotsonas of 24 Columbia Avenue, due to speeding vehicles

Chief Mello stated that his staff is currently doing a traffic study and they will do this area as soon as possible. Committee Member Meagher asked Chief Mello if his staff could investigate the large commercial vehicles that go through the area also. Chief Mello stated that he will talk to the manager of McQuade's Market regarding the commercial traffic in this area.

2) **Route 95 direction sign** at Route 138 and East Shore Road (to Cross Island Expressway) near RITBA Building: Discussion of necessity and potential request to RI State Traffic Commission for determination of need and installation

Chief Mello reported that a work order is already pending to replace signs near Conanicut Marina and that he will put a request in for a signage near the intersection of Route 138 and East Shore Road.

Trimming of scrubs at intersections:

Brief discussion ensued regarding site issues at intersections regarding overgrown hedges and shrubs.

Committee Member stated that most residents are very cooperative, if the matter is brought to their attention.

Committee Member Yentsch asked if there were any regulations regarding this matter. Chief Mello stated that

most of these issues are actually on Town owned property, but the Public Works Director is reluctant to have staff trim, due to the fact that some residents get upset.

Motorcycle/scooter/bicycle parking:

Committee Member Munger stated that on a trial basis, he would like 3 spaces designated in the square, for motorcycle/scooter parking and further stated that he is awaiting Public Works on this matter.

Committee Member Mastrostefano stated she would like to discuss bicycle parking at the next scheduled traffic meeting. Committee consensus: To place this item on the next meeting agenda.

Jamestown Shores parking:

Committee Chairman Tighe reminded the Committee Members that the Jamestown Shores parking changes is scheduled on the next Town Council Meeting agenda at a Public Hearing on 06/22/15 and asked Gary Girard a Jamestown Shore resident, who was present at this evenings meeting, to get the word out to Jamestown Shores residents.

Committee Member Yentsch suggested that the Committee start addressing parking in the other/small sections of the Jamestown Shores, such as the area near Garboard Street to Frigate Street and also in the area of Head's Beach. Committee consensus: To place this item on the next meeting agenda.

Meeting schedule:

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Cain to forego the July meeting to allow Chief Mello to gather information and to meet again in August. So unanimously voted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Meagher, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Clerk

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