

JAMESTOWN TRAFIC COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:04 PM by Chairman, Thomas P. Tighe.

The following members were present:

Melissa Mastrostefano
Vincent Moretti
William Munger
Timothy Yentsch

Also present were:

Chief Edward Mello
Denise Jennings, Clerk

Absent:

Mary E. Meagher, Vice-Chair.
David Cain, Member

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) **10/20/15 minutes** (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Moretti to accept the 10/20/15 regular meeting minutes. So unanimously voted.

OPEN FORUM

Committee Chairman Tighe asked if anyone wished speak on the **West Ferry parking** matter and stated that the item which was continued from the 10/20/15 meeting, was inadvertently left off of the agenda and stated that it will be continued to the next meeting on 12/15/15.

No one from the audience indicated that they were present for said discussion.

A) Scheduled requests to address:

(None scheduled)

B) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

(None)

Committee Chairman Tighe stated that there is a communication on the agenda from Richard Allphin under **NEW BUSINESS** and stated that Mr. Allphin is present and suggested that new business be discussed prior to **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**.

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to discuss **NEW BUSINESS** as the next item of business. So unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Communication from Richard Allphin re: **Towing of vehicles** by Jamestown Police Department, with request to appear before the Committee; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Richard Allphin of 21 Bonnet View Drive stated that he was present this evening to get some guidance and to find out what the rules were pertaining to towing. He further stated that one day during the summer he was walking his usual route and as he proceeded down High Street to cross Walcott, there were two cars parked on Walcott Avenue that were just beyond the no parking sign. The vehicles were parked right up to the intersection of High Street and as he proceeded to carefully walk around the two cars to cross the street, he was almost run down by a speeding motorcycle. He immediately called the police to discuss the matter and the towing of the vehicles parked past the no parking signs. He had several conversations with the Police Department and on that day was told by an officer that it would not make a difference if they had towed the vehicles, because there were cars already parked up to that point. Mr. Allphin further stated that he had spoken to Chief Mello and the Chief agreed that this was not the proper answer and that they are not allowed to tow because it was not a tow zone.

Mr. Allphin further stated that he was unsure about this answer, so he contacted the Town of Narragansett and they stated that they tow vehicles from state and town roads carefully and that they usually try to contact the owner of a vehicle first. If the situation is an immediate traffic hazard, they will tow the vehicle or arrange to have it towed. Mr. Allphin suggested that the rules should be the same for Jamestown and again asked if the Town can tow a vehicle or not.

Chief Mello stated that he recalls speaking with Mr. Allphin. Chief Mello re-iterated what he had previously told Mr. Allphin as follows: The Town can tow a vehicle, if the area is specified as a tow zone and the particular area in question is not. Chief Mello further stated that it is a violation in which a car on either side of the intersection had parked within 40 feet of the corner. If it is an immediate hazard it is a judgment call and what may be a hazard to one may not be a hazard to another.

Committee Member Munger suggested that this matter be referred to the Solicitor for an opinion. Brief discussion ensued. No action was taken on Committee Member Munger's suggestion.

Mr. Allphin stated that he was happy to hear that that town can tow a vehicle if judged as a hazard.

- B) Proposed **Parking Restrictions for Jamestown Shores** area from Route 138 (Old Eldred Avenue) north to Garboard Street; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

The recommendations under review are as follows:

No parking on either side of the street-

Portion of **Beacon Avenue from Route 138 to Neptune Street**

Spirketing Street

Portion of **Seaside Drive from the Jamestown Bridge to Garboard Street**

No parking on the even numbered side of the street and no overnight parking (11:00PM to 6:00AM) without a resident permit on the following streets:

Beach Avenue

Beacon Avenue from Neptune Street heading north to the dead end

Backstay Street

Dolphin Avenue

Ferry Street

Garboard Street

Keel Avenue

Norman Road

Nun Avenue

Nemo Way

Spindrift Street

Stanchion Street

Steamboat Avenue

Top O' Mark Drive

Frederick Uttley of 57 Spirketing Street expressed his concerns regarding the proposed plan to eliminate parking on Spirketing Street and asked where his family and friends would park when visiting. Mr. Uttley stated that this is the first that he has heard of anything about parking restrictions in the Jamestown Shore area and further stated that it is in his opinion, that if no parking is allowed on Spirketing Street that the speed of cars may increase.

Jean Uttley of 57 Spirketing Street stated that she has the same concerns as her husband and asked the Committee why they are proposing no parking on Spirketing Street. Chief Mello stated that the Town has been reviewing the safety and emergency access on all Jamestown Shores streets, such as asphalt width, vehicle speed and traffic volume. Mrs. Uttley asked the Committee when and if a decision would be made and would they be notified, so that they could be involved in the discussion. Committee Chairman Tighe stated that the Committee will make recommendation to the Town Council regarding the parking changes and if the Town Council deemed it appropriate, they will set a date for a public hearing; advertise said hearing in the Jamestown Press and at that time those parties with questions or concerns could attend the public hearing.

Committee Member Yentsch briefly described the recently adopted changes in the Helm Street area and stated that one is still allowed to park on the property in front of their houses as long as all four wheels are on the grass area. Committee Member Yentsch asked Mr. Uttley if he had the option to do this. Mr. Uttley stated that he did not.

James Tobin of 11 Neptune Street asked for clarification regarding the residential permits. Chief Mello stated the following regarding residential permits:

- Permits are for overnight parking only, for the hours from 11:00PM to 6:00AM.
- Permits can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office.
- Residents are allowed to obtain 2 permits at no cost and additional permits up to 5 permits at \$5.00 per a permit.
- Permits clip onto the rearview mirror and are transferable to second vehicles.

William MacIntosh of 14 Spirketing Street expressed his concerns regarding the proposed plan to eliminate parking on Spirketing Street and stated that he was concerned, because annually he hosts an event/reception and parking would be needed. Chief Mello stated that he is aware of the annual event and that Mr. MacIntosh could request a waiver for his reception.

Brief discussion ensued regarding resident's concerns on the proposed elimination of parking on Spirketing Street. Chief Mello suggested that the Committee go up to Spirketing Street to get a feel for the layout, the traffic and parking on Spirketing Street.

Committee Member Mastrostefano asked Chief Mello how accessibility for emergency vehicles was on Spirketing Street compared to Hull Street. Chief Mello stated that he was unsure and suggested that the Committee invite the Fire Chief to a meeting to express his feelings regarding emergency access in this area.

Following clarification on a few additional items, the Committee made the following recommendations to be forwarded to the Town Council:

Portion of Beacon Avenue from Route 138 to Neptune Street-

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to recommend no parking on either side of the street on Beacon Avenue from Route 138 to Neptune Street. So unanimously voted.

Spirketing Street-

Motion was made by Committee Member Yentsch, seconded by Committee Member Munger to table action on Spirketing Street to the next meeting on 12/15/15 and also to invite the Fire Chief to said meeting so that he can voice his concerns on emergency access in this area. So unanimously voted.

Portion of Seaside Drive from the Jamestown Bridge to Garboard Street-

Motion was made by Committee Member Yentsch, seconded by Committee Member Munger to recommend no parking on either side of the street on Seaside Drive from the Jamestown Bridge to Garboard Street. So unanimously voted.

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to forward the following recommendation to the Town Council:

No parking on the even numbered side of the street and no overnight parking (11:00PM to 6:00AM) without a resident permit on the following streets:

Beach Avenue

Beacon Avenue from Neptune Street heading north to the dead end

Backstay Street

Dolphin Avenue

Ferry Street

Garboard Street

Keel Avenue

Norman Road

Nun Avenue

Nemo Way

**Spindrift Street
Stanchion Street
Steamboat Avenue
Top O' Mark Drive**

Motion so unanimously voted.

Committee consensus: To discuss the parking restrictions for the remainder of the Jamestown Shores at the next meeting on 12/15/15. Committee Member Yentsch noted that this discussion may take a few meetings to complete.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) **Commercial Vehicle Parking** in residential zones: additional review of regulations for parking in residential areas backing up, exhaust fumes, overnight parking); review and discussion and/or possible action and/or vote

Chief Mello stated that this matter was brought up by Committee Member Meagher and due to her absence he suggested that this item be continued to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Mastrostefano to continue this matter to the next meeting on 12/15/15. So unanimously voted.

NEW BUSINESS

- A) Communication from Richard Allphin re: **Towing of vehicles** by Jamestown Police Department, with request to appear before the Committee; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Previously discussed.

- B) Proposed **Parking Restrictions for Jamestown Shores** area from Route 138 (Old Eldred Avenue) north to Garboard Street; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Previously discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Munger, seconded by Committee Member Moretti to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Clerk

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