

JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Approved:

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

II. The following members were present:

Thomas Tighe, Chairman
Vincent Moretti
David Cain
Valerie Southern
Timothy Yentsch

The following members were absent:

Mary Meagher, Vice-Chairman
William Munger

Also present:

Police Chief Edward Mello
Kim Devlin, Clerk

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES

A) December 20, 2018 (regular meeting)

Chairman Cain moved to approve the minutes; Member Moretti 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.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A) Letter of Sav Rebecchi re: Parking Restrictions in the Jamestown Shores

Chairman Tighe stated that this item is on the agenda, to be discussed under New Business.

B) Email of Sandy Sorlien requesting Stop Signs on High Street and Howland Avenue

Member Cain moved to add this item to the agenda for next month; Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Revision of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article IV.

Stopping, Standing and Parking, Sec 70-87 Prohibited or restricted parking on specified streets, Melrose Avenue, from: "no parking on the east side from the intersection of Watson Avenue north to

the intersection of West Passage Drive” to “no parking on the west side from the intersection of Watson Avenue north to the intersection of West Passage Drive” as requested by John Civic; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chief Mello stated that he has met with Dr. Duva and the recommendation to the Traffic Committee is to have no parking on the west side of Melrose Avenue from Watson Avenue North to the end of the street and no parking on the east side of Melrose Avenue from Watson Avenue to the southern driveway at Melrose School. The impact on residents will be minimal as the neighbors in the area all have driveways or are able to park off of the asphalt.

Member Moretti moved to accept Chief Mello’s recommendation; Member Cain seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**B) Parking restrictions in the Shores; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote
(Continued from 12/20/2018)**

1) Emergency Vehicle Passage

2) Overnight Parking

3) Formation of Sub-Committee

Sav Rebecchi, 13 Sail Street, re-stated his request to the Traffic Committee to have the parking signs and restrictions removed from the south shores neighborhood.

MaryAnn Carr, 30 Beach Avenue, stated that for 30 years she parked in front of her house on the lawn. Since the restrictions were put into place she has to park in front of her neighbor’s house and, since she can’t park on their lawn, her car takes up more space in the road and makes it more difficult for cars to pass.

Anita Girard, Seaside Drive, stated that having parking on one side of the road has made it easier to drive in the shores, especially in the summer.

Peter Medieros, 85 Seaside Drive, stated that he is against removing the parking signs and is against overnight parking anywhere in the shores.

Chairman Tighe asked Fire Chief Jim Bryer his opinion on the matter.

Fire Chief Jim Bryer stated that it depends on the street, but it is better with parking on one side only.

Commissioner Southern asked the public who are in favor of removing the restrictions how they would feel if there was an emergency and the emergency vehicles could not access an area because of parked cars.

Mr. Rebecchi stated that he was in favor of the restrictions for that reason, and that he was in favor of no parking on Hull Street and under the bridge, but that opinion was based off of comments made by Fire Chief Teixeira that were misinterpreted.

Member Yentsch asked Chief Mello if all four tires are off of the asphalt is that vehicle in violation of the parking restrictions.

Chief Mello stated that the town owns 40'-50' of the road right of way, so technically you would be in violation but practically that car would not be written a violation.

Chairman Tighe suggested continuing this item until the next meeting and asked Executive Director Chief Mello to look at the north shores.

Member Yentsch stated that there are different issues affecting different streets and it is not a uniform issue throughout the shores.

Commissioner Southern suggested keeping the restrictions as they are now and looking at it on a street by street basis, based on the residents requests.

Sav Rebecchi stated that the committee voted to have the same restrictions in the north shores that are in place in the south shores, but the residents complained and the committee voted to have the restrictions removed.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he needs direction on how to proceed, because his recommendation has not changed from the last time this issue was looked at and the committee chose not to adopt his recommendations the last time.

A discussion ensued.

Member Moretti moved to review the south shores parking, excluding Helm and Hull Street; Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

C) Increasing the speed limit on North Road; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (Continued from 12/20/2018)

Member Moretti moved to continue this item until the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Request of Kenneth Nelson for installation of a stop sign at the east/west intersection of Watson Avenue and Pemberton Avenue, referred to the Traffic Committee by the Town Council; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chief Mello stated that at the last meeting the committee asked him to conduct a traffic study at the intersection of Watson Avenue and Pemberton Avenue and he has not been able to do that as of now. That being said, Chief Mello stated that that area is heavily traveled.

Chief Mello stated that a stop sign might help but that sometimes it creates more violations because people tend to assume the other cars will stop and roll through the intersection and speed even more to make up for the stop. Chief Mello stated that there are other traffic calming measures that work better and creating a neighborhood with uniform intersections and signs will help the most. Unfortunately, those measures are costly and require maintenance. A stop sign is cost effective but the least effective method of slowing traffic.

Executive Director Chief Mello went over some of the suggestions for alternative traffic calming measures, as stated in an email from Commissioner Southern to Chairman Tighe that was distributed at the meeting.

Commissioner Southern stated that because the neighborhood includes schools and senior housing maybe this should be looked at from a policy perspective by the town and hopefully the committee will consider a wholistic approach and utilize a combination of traffic calming measures to slow traffic.

A discussion ensued.

Member Moretti moved to recommend to the Town Council to add a four way stop sign at the intersection of Watson Avenue and Pemberton; Chairman Tighe seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

B) Agenda items for the next and/or future agendas; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Tighe stated that Unfinished Business items B and C will be continued until the next meeting and the request for a stop sign at the High Street and Howland intersection will be added to New Business.

Member Cain asked if the committee could take a look at the striping design plan for North Road.

Chief Mello stated that he would try to make that available.

C) Upcoming meeting schedule; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

The next meeting will be held on March 21st.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Cain and seconded by Member Yentsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin
Clerk