

JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2019

Approved: 5/16/2019

I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Conference Room, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:03 PM by Chairman Tighe.

II. The following members were present:

Thomas Tighe, Chairman
Mary Meagher, Vice-Chairman
Valerie Southern
Timothy Yentsch
William Munger

The following members were absent:

Vincent Moretti
David Cain

Also present:

Police Chief Edward Mello
Kim Devlin, Clerk

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES

A) March 21, 2019 (regular meeting)

Member Munger moved to approve the minutes; Chairman Tighe seconded. So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays (Vice-Chairman Meagher abstained).

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 Janice Bell requesting more crosswalk safety measures at the intersection of Laen Avenue and Watson Avenue; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to accept the correspondence; Member Munger seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Increasing the speed limit on North Road; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (Continued from 2/21/2019)

Member Southern suggested removing this item from the agenda until the project is further along.

The committee and Chief Mello agreed.

B) Neighborhood Traffic Calming Concepts; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Member Southern stated that the committee has not had a chance to meet yet so there is nothing to report.

C) RIDOT Report Re: Downtown Pedestrian Crossing; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chief Mello stated that this item should not be on the agenda again; Member Munger only asked for it to be added to the last agenda to clarify details about the DOT request in the event that the item is ever revisited by the committee.

D) Stop Signs on High and Howland as requested by Sandy Sorlien; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chairman Tighe stated that the residents in the neighborhood were not notified of this agenda item so it will be continued until after the community can provide feedback.

Sandy Sorlien addressed the committee about her concerns for safety at the intersection and why she is requesting a four way stop at this intersection.

A discussion ensued.

Member Southern clarified that the neighbors will be notified that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Chairman Tighe confirmed there would be notice sent to the neighbors.

E) Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act: Future Training Session by a Member of Ruggiero, Brochu & Petrarca, Town Solicitors; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

No action was taken.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Pedestrian crosswalks on State Roads in the Town of Jamestown; review, discussion and/or potential action

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he has been working with the state DOT on marking and signage on a number of state roads in town. Executive Director Chief Mello provided the committee with pictures of the crosswalk by the playground as an example of the signage and markings he is requesting from the state.

Chief Mello informed the committee that the reconfiguration of the intersection at Hamilton and Southwest that he requested from the state two and a half years ago will begin on Monday.

Chief Mello went through his inventory of crosswalks and the plan for each location. Chief Mello stated that when the public works department added the one new sign at the crosswalk by the playground they removed three old signs.

Member Yentsch asked Chief Mello if there would be any special attention given to the crosswalk by the playground.

Chief Mello stated that the intersection there will be completely redesigned under the safe routes to school program.

B) Review of Proposed Amendments to the Jamestown Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article II Administration and Enforcement, Sec. 70-25 Notice of Violation; Admission of Truth and Payment of Fines at Police Station; Amounts; Article III. Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 70-52 Stop Intersections; Article IV. Stopping, Standing and Parking, Sec. 70-81 Parking Area, Lots 172 and 173 (former ambulance barn); Sec. 70-82 Two-hour Parking Limit Located upon Lot 573 Plat 8; Sec. 70-83 Standing or Parking on Steel Pier and Bulkhead; Sec. 70-86 Standing or Parking on East Ferry Wharf; Sec. 70-87 Prohibited or Restricted Parking on Specified Streets; prepared by Police Chief Edward A. Mello; advertisement in the Jamestown Press April 25, 2019 edition for public hearing on May 6, 2019; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Meagher asked that this item be placed on the agenda because she felt the Traffic Committee should be aware of the Public Hearing on May 6th. Much of the changes are administrative but there are some things the committee should be aware of, such as proposed changes to parking on Ft. Getty road and Melrose Avenue, and the stop sign on Pemberton Avenue and Watson Avenue.

Chief Mello stated that the proposed changes to the ordinance were a collaborative effort through Town Administration and included many meetings with the Town Planner, Public Works Director, Town Administrator and the Recreation Director, along with suggestion from staff.

Chief Mello stated that the Melrose Avenue parking changes were brought to the Traffic Committee and the Traffic Committee already voted on the changes, but once the proposal was brought to the Town Council, the council decided that the Traffic Committee should re-examine the proposed changes, so it was removed from the Public Hearing.

Chief Mello reviewed the proposed changes with the Traffic Committee:

- Sec. 70-81: The reconfiguration of the former ambulance barn should provide 16 to 18 spaces and it is proposed to be an 8 hour lot with no boat trailer parking and no overnight parking
- Sec. 70-82: The parking lot across from the Narragansett Café is proposed to be a two hour lot with no boat trailer parking and no overnight parking
- Sec. 70-83: The proposal separates the steel pier from the bulkhead. The steel pier is regulated in the lease between the Town and Conanicut Marine
- Sec. 70-86: The proposed changes take away the ability to tow cars from the East Ferry lot and clean up the language
- Sec. 70-87: Specific Street Parking Regulations; Conanicut Avenue - The proposed changes reduce the parking time to two hours and promote the eight hour parking at the former ambulance barn lot and restrict boat trailer parking and overnight parking; Ft. Getty Road - The proposed changes will allow for overflow parking from Mackerel Cove with a resident sticker; Mackerel Cove Beach Parking - The proposed changes designate where vehicles may park and restrict double parking, boat trailer parking and overnight parking; Narragansett Avenue - The proposed changes restrict boat trailer parking; Southwest Avenue - The proposed changes will allow parking on the east side from West Street to Narragansett Avenue; Seaside Drive - The proposed changes restrict parking on the even numbered side

south of Hull Street; Valley Street – The proposed changes allow for two hour parking on the south side from North Road to Douglas Street; Weeden Lane – The proposed changes remove parking restrictions for this road; West Ferry – The proposed changes include a designated Harbormaster parking spot and restrict boat trailer parking.

Christian Infantolino addressed the Traffic Committee on behalf of five clients who live on Ft. Getty Road. Mr. Infantolino requested that the Traffic Committee vote to not allow parking on Ft. Getty road because private property abuts the asphalt and there are safety concerns, as the street isn't very wide and also environmental and emergency vehicle access concerns if parking is allowed.

Member Southern stated that she feels that the Town Planner and the Planning Commission be involved in and aware of the proposed changes.

Chief Mello stated that the Town Planner was involved in all of the discussions and clarified the process the town went through to develop the proposed changes. Chief Mello stated that many of the proposed changes are housekeeping issues, where the roads and signs were changed and the ordinance was never updated. The Ft. Getty Road parking was born from a discussion with the Town Council and when this was presented to the Town Council two weeks ago the Town Council removed some items from the proposed ordinance for the Traffic Committee to revisit. There was no intent to circumvent the Traffic Committee or the Planning Commission, the intent was to manage the space we have in the best manner possible.

Town Administrator Andy Nota clarified that the discussion of allowing parking on Ft. Getty Road was not to sanction parking on private property, but that the Town is looking into a reconstruction project on Ft. Getty Road that will widen the road and possibly bury power lines to allow for an increase of space that could support parking.

Chairman Tighe stated that the issue before the committee is whether we want to allow parking on Ft. Getty Road.

Member Munger moved to have no parking on Ft. Getty Road; Chairman Tighe seconded.

Member Southern stated that she feels added Police enforcement would also be beneficial.

Member Munger amended his motion to include "with increased Police enforcement."

So voted; 4 ayes, 0 nays (Vice-Chairman Meagher abstained).

Member Southern asked Chief Mello to clarify overnight parking.

Chief Mello stated that overnight parking is when a car is parked continuously from 11PM to 7AM.

Member Munger stated that he has concerns about the language regarding the crane we (Conanicut Marine) use on the Steel Pier.

Chief Mello stated that there were no changes to the language that the language Member Munger is concerned about is existing language, not an amendment. Chief Mello suggested that maybe the

language regarding the Steel Pier should be removed from the ordinance altogether, as the Steel Pier is regulated in the lease Conanicut Marine has with the Town.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to recommend holding off on items 70-83 and 70-87 Conanicus Avenue; Chairman Tighe seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

C) Review of On-street Parking and Overnight Parking in neighborhoods throughout the Town of Jamestown; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that she asked for this item to be back on the agenda, as she feels the island should be looked at as a whole to see if there are other areas that should be looked at. When we added the restrictions for the south shores and began to look at the north shores, we received significant push back from the residents and then we (Traffic Committee) dropped the issue pretty quickly.

Chief Mello stated that the Traffic Committee rejected pretty much all of the recommendations he made the last time this was an agenda item and it will be an extensive process to restart. The committee should ask the Fire Chief for his input more so than the Police Chief, as Police cars are much smaller than Fire trucks and can pass through tight roads much easier.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that she would write a letter to the Fire Chief asking which streets he has concerns about.

Chief Mello stated that that action does not address the overnight parking part of the item.

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

Agenda items to be continued are: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Concepts and Stop Signs on High and Howland.

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

The next meeting will be held on May 16th.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Moretti and seconded by Member Munger to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin
Clerk