

**JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 16, 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 Vice-Chairman Meagher.**

**II. The following members were present:**

Mary Meagher, Vice-Chairman  
Valerie Southern  
Timothy Yentsch  
William Munger  
Vincent Moretti

**The following members were absent:**

Thomas Tighe, Chairman

**Also present:**

Police Chief Edward Mello  
Kim Devlin, Clerk

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES**

**A) April 16, 2019 (regular meeting)**

Member Munger moved to approve the minutes; Member Yentsch 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 William Munger to the Chamber of Commerce re: Village Parking Observations; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

This item will be discussed under item 6(D).

**B) Letter of Alma Davenport re: Parking/Traffic Congestion at the Jamestown Library, Playground and Jamestown Arts Center; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**  
Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to place this item under a future agenda, Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**C) Letter of James King of Walcott Avenue with signed petition requesting consideration of Stop Signs on Walcott Avenue; review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

**1) Three-way stop at Walcott Avenue and Brook Street**

**2) Three-way stop at Walcott Avenue and Hamilton Avenue**

**3) Four-way stop at Walcott Avenue and High Street**

James King addressed the Traffic Committee regarding the dangerous speeds at which vehicles drive on Walcott Avenue. Mr. King submitted a petition supporting his request to the Traffic Committee.

Norman Beretta stated that the bicyclists are as bad as cars and that animals have been hit and it's lucky that a person has not yet been hit.

Chief Mello stated that Walcott Avenue is a state road and you would have to appear before the State Traffic Commission. Mr. King could either go straight to the State or come back to the Traffic Committee and have the Town weigh in on the matter before going to the State.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that she would like to have the Traffic Committee weigh in to the State Traffic Commission.

Member Munger moved to add this item to the next agenda; Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**D) Letter of David and Teresa Emond of Howland Avenue requesting four-way Stop Sign at the intersection of Howland Avenue and Walcott Avenue; review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote**

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to move up item 6(B); Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B) Stop Signs on High Street and Howland Avenue as requested by Sandy Sorlien; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote, continued from April 16, 2019**

Sandy Sorlien stated that this intersection is an accident waiting to happen. There has been an increase in traffic over the years and the four way stop sign at this intersection is necessary for everyone's safety.

Bruce Matos stated that he supports Sandy.

Donata Barber stated that the shrubbery on the lots at the intersection makes it dangerous.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that the hedges are regulated by the ordinance.

Member Munger stated that he lives on Cole Street just west of the intersection and that he supports the four ways stop sign at the intersection.

Member Southern stated that if we do add stop signs to the intersection we will have to alert drivers to the new sign.

Chief Mello stated that the new stop sign at Watson and Pemberton will have signs indicating that it is a four way stop and there will be larger signs up while drivers adjust to the new stop.

Member Southern moved to go to the Town Council with the recommendation to install a four way stop sign at Howland and High Streets; Member Munger seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### **A) Neighborhood Traffic Calming Concepts; Formation of Neighborhood Traffic Sub-Committee to address them; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote, continued from April 16, 2019**

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to appoint Member Southern and Member Moretti to the subcommittee on traffic calming concepts; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; 5 ayes, 0 nays.

### **C) Review of Restrictions for Melrose Avenue Parking; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that right now there is only parking on the east side of Melrose and suggested allowing parking on the west side for the first 500'.

Chief Mello stated that he would like to keep the traffic flow for school pick up and drop off practical and explained the logistics of the school drop off and pick up plan.

Chief Mello stated that it might be practical to have Melrose be a one way street, but if we did make that change it would require a physical change to the road.

A discussion ensued on options for Melrose Avenue traffic flow.

### **D) 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; and 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 stated that this item was on the Town Council agenda and the Town Council asked for certain items in the revision to be sent back to the Traffic Committee for review; however, many of the items are clarifications and updates to the ordinance to reflect changes that have happened in reality that were not updated in the ordinance.

Chief Mello stated that there were two items referred back to the Traffic Committee, at the request of the Traffic Committee at the Town Council meeting. The first item is to define the parking terms for the 16 parking spots north of the Steel Pier, which are currently 8 hour spots and also the parking spots on the bulkhead of the Steel Pier.

Chief Mello stated that the Steel Pier is a Town asset that is leased to Conanicut Marine and should not be regulated by the ordinance, that it should be a landlord and tenant agreement. Chief Mello stated that the bulkhead leading to the Steel Pier is the area the Traffic Committee should focus on the six or seven spots on the bulkhead that are not regulated by the ordinance. The suggestion is to make them 8 hr spots but in downtown that means they are basically unlimited. The no overnight parking still applies but as long as they are not parked there continually between 2AM and 6AM there is not a violation.

Chief Mello presented a parking map of the downtown area from the intersection of North Road and Narragansett Avenue to East Ferry and Knowles Court to High Street. This area includes roughly 383 unlimited parking spaces, 34 eight hour parking spaces, 112 two hour parking spaces, 14 thirty minute parking spaces and 2 fifteen minute parking spaces.

Chief Mello stated that this map includes recent changes to the parking ordinance, such as the EMS barn that will provide about 18 unlimited spaces. There are blue "P" signs indicating there is parking on Narragansett Avenue leading to the EMS barn to make it uniform with the other signage around town.

Member Munger stated that Conanicut Marine has overnight parking for their customers at the boatyard lot.

Chief Mello stated that the two points to look at are the EMS lot and the bulkhead and what time limits, if any, should be placed on those parking spots. The Town Council is looking to the Traffic Committee for a recommendation.

Member Southern stated that it would be reasonable for those locations to have eight hour parking.

Member Yentsch stated that eight hours seems to be too long of a time limit.

A discussion ensued.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that it seems to be the consensus of the Traffic Committee to keep things as they are.

Chief Mello stated that those spots would include no overnight and no boat trailer parking and that the bulkhead would have no limit.

**E) Open Meetings Act and Access to Public Records Act: Future Training session by a member of Ruggiero, Brochu & Petrarca, Town Solicitors; upcoming training session for Boards/Commissions/Committees at a date to be announced; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote, continued from April 16, 2019**

Chief Mello stated that we will need to opinion of the solicitor on whether or not the meetings for the sub-committee will need to be posted, regardless if there is a quorum of members or not.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Member Munger stated that he would like to put the ambulance lot on the agenda.

**B) Upcoming Meeting Schedule; review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote  
The next Traffic Committee meeting will be on June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Yentsch and seconded by Member Moretti to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin  
Clerk