

JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Approved: August 27, 2020

I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:02 PM by Chairman Tighe.

II. The following members were present:

Thomas Tighe, Chairman
Mary Meagher, Vice-Chairman
Michael Junge
Vincent Moretti
Valerie Southern
Timothy Yentsch
Bill Munger

Also present:

Police Chief Edward Mello
Kim Devlin, Clerk

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES

A) October 17, 2019

Commissioner Junge moved to approve the minutes; Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; 7 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.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter from Jamie and Kris Matthews, Re: Parking on Fox Run; 10/15/2019 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

B. Letter from Alma Davenport, Re: Intersection of Fox Run and Hamilton Avenue; 10/17/2019 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

C. Letter from Christian Smith; Re: Jamestown Boat Yard Marina Expansion; 1/2/2020 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

D. Letter from the Town to RIDOT Re: Stop sign at Walcott Avenue and High Street; 11/5/2019 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

E. Letter from RIDOT to the Town Re: Stop sign at Walcott Avenue and High Street; 1/13/2020 - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Member Munger moves to accept Correspondence items A-E; Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Ambulance Barn/Parking Lot - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that since the Traffic Committee wrote the letter to the Town Council we have a new Town Administrator and he is currently in the middle of preparing the budget. This issue has not yet been addressed at the Town Council level.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A) All night parking - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Chief Mello presented the members with suggested edits to the parking ordinance. Section 70-91 references the overnight parking in the south Shores neighborhood and no changes are suggested, but he wanted to make the Committee aware that it exists.

Chief Mello stated that section 70-80 does have revisions that he would like the Committee to consider. The changes would allow for overnight passenger vehicle parking but would limit large vehicles and boat trailer parking. Exceptions would be Town vehicles, vehicles of overnight employees of the Town, and vehicles permitted for parking at Ft. Getty. The idea is that if a certain type of parking is not permitted it is prohibited.

Chief Mello stated that the Committee does not need to act on this tonight, but to contemplate the changes to make some parts of the ordinance enforceable.

Member Moretti asked if the ordinance would include the rights-of-ways that extend beyond the pavement, on the sides of the road.

Member Munger asked how West Ferry boat parking would be handled.

Chief Mello stated that we would have to carve that out in the ordinance, per the lease. Chief Mello stated that there is a 15' right-of-way on the south side of the bulkhead that people store boats on during the winter that is not included in the lease and who are not customers of Dutch Harbor Boat Yard.

A discussion ensued.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that essentially the ordinance would allow for overnight parking by eliminating the word "vehicle."

Chief Mello stated that is correct, the ordinance as written is unenforceable anyway so we are trying to address the types of complaints that the Town receives regarding parking.

Member Southern stated that she feels the entire island should be looked at comprehensively to determine what parking regulations would work for different areas and to have public involvement.

Member Munger stated that we have to tread cautiously with doing that, as the experience trying to regulate parking in the shores demonstrated a few years back.

Chief Mello asked the Committee to think about the changes and to continue this item until the next meeting.

B) Dumpling Drive - Review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that the concerns about the Jamestown Boat Yard expansion are less now that the expansion has been scaled back, and that Town Administrator Jamie Hainsworth suggested doing a parking study in the summer.

Chief Mello stated that he would look at that and come back to the Town Council.

Chief Mello referred to the map of the Dumpling Drive, stating that the challenges that go along with enforcing the parking regulations near Jamestown Boat Yard is that it is impossible to tell where the road ends and the private property begins on the west side of Dumpling Drive.

Member Munger suggested doing a survey to determine where the line is.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he would talk to Town Administrator Jamie Hainsworth to see if they want to verify where the boundary points are.

Member Southern stated that she supports doing the survey, that it is a safety issue with the condition of the road and people walking to the beach.

Commissioner Junge stated that there is a safety concern on every road and that the only reason we are hearing about this is that the people involved with the Dumplings Associations have been very vocal around town regarding their opposition to the Jamestown Boat Yard expansion. We don't know this is an issue and just because the squeaky wheel usually gets the grease doesn't mean it is the wheel that needs it.

A discussion ensued.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that he would look into what the new property owner has available and we can continue this item until the next meeting.

VII. OPEN FORUM - CONTINUED

There was no continued Open Forum.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Member Munger and seconded by Member Moretti to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Director Chief Mello stated that there may be a scheduling conflict for the March meeting.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that we can look into different dates or continue this until the April meeting.

Chairman Tighe stated that he would email some reschedule dates to the committee members.

So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin
Clerk