

Town and County of Nantucket
ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Posted Meeting of
August 17, 2021
Held by Zoom Videoconferencing

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of Minutes, and Public Comments.

A. Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. In attendance were Rick Atherton, Ed Gillum (4:12 pm), Bill Grieder, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein and Phil Smith; there was a quorum at all times. All responded to an attendance roll call. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on You Tube. Mary Longacre joined as a guest. Absent were Nelson (Snookie) Eldridge and Nat Lowell.

B. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously by acclamation.

C. Public Comments.

When Allen Reinhard asked Mary Longacre, as the only member of the public present, if she had any comments, she replied that, yes, she would talk about her posting to DayBreak Nantucket. She had watched the recording of the July meeting of the Committee on Roads and Right of Way and was so impressed by Chair Allen Reinhard's summary of things done by the Committee since 2005 that she decided to post the video on DayBreak Nantucket. She noted that this was an agenda item and hoped that the Committee would not mind her speaking about the posting in the public comment item. Allen Reinhard assured her that this was fine and spoke of his appreciation for spreading the news about the committee's activities. Both agreed that this posting may be why there are four applications for membership on the committee. He said that he knew two of the applicants and either would make a fine addition.

Lee Saperstein added that names and applications of the four are in the agenda packet for the Select Board meeting of Wednesday, August 18th. The four applicants are David Wunderlich, Campbell Sutton, Bruce Watts, and Rob Ranney.

Mary Longacre then spoke of the Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee's final report to the Select Board, which is due in September. There is still an opportunity to submit ideas and suggestions to the Committee. Their web site has access to their preliminary report in which there are access links to the reports submitted to the committee; it also has e-mail links for submission of thoughts and ideas.

D. Minutes. Approval of the minutes from July 20, 2021, was moved by Bill Grieder, seconded by Rick Atherton, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

2. Reorganization of DPW and Implications for Roads and ROW Committee

Allen Reinhard said that the spate of resignations at the DPW was highly unsettling and would delay many of the projects reviewed by the Committee. He asked Ken Beaugrand if he had any additional insight into what has happened. Ken Beaugrand reported that, in addition to the Director, there could be over eight vacancies in both administrative and operating staff. The Select Board is highly concerned and is paying a great deal of attention to the DPW vacancies. He said that he will keep the committee informed of any new developments.

Lee Saperstein mentioned that there are Town employees who are qualified to be the DPW Director. Allen Reinhard said that he had spoken with the Directors for Water and Sewer and both said that they too much on their plate to consider changing roles. They did volunteer that projects in their domains that would include road repaving will be undertaken and they hope, therefore to make progress on a few of the approved major road projects.

Lee Saperstein asked, as a related issue, if there was any news about replacing the transportation planner. Allen Reinhard said that at least one interview was scheduled for August 12th but that he had no information about it. Mary Longacre, from her position on the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission, NPEDC, said that she had no news either about this position.

3. Road Projects: Lovers Lane, Hinsdale, Etc.

Allen Reinhard then moved directly into this agenda item and added that the Select Board is concerned about progress on approved road rebuilding projects and will give the DPW and its interim director directions on project priorities. This is an on-going issue and he will keep the committee informed of project activity.

Bill Grieder asked if anyone knew anything about the tree along Pleasant Street opposite Back Street: specifically, if there was a plan to spare them if a sidewalk was built along that stretch. Allen Reinhard said that he would try to get more information about them.

4. Sidewalk Projects: Missing Sidewalks and Downtown Sidewalk Repairs.

Allen Reinhard reported that, as far as he knew, the next phase of the downtown sidewalk renewal project was on schedule. This work follows on the sidewalk survey done by the committee some years ago. It is bigger in scope than can be handled by the DPW brick and cobblestone crew and has been let out as a contract. The first of five years has been completed and he hopes that this year's project will occur.

Ed Gillum mentioned that he has seen sidewalk work being done on Upper Main Street. Lee Saperstein suggested that this was done by a DPW crew and was not part of the downtown contract. All agreed that the Town needs to repair obvious tripping hazards as soon as possible.

Allen Reinhard said that he will ask the Select Board for information on progress on the sidewalk projects. Bill Grieder suggested that a lot of information on projects was held by the former director of the DPW and the absence of this information could lead to delays.

Ed Gillum reported that he had had many comments about the variety of surfaces used on sidewalks outside of the downtown core: asphalt, brick, concrete, stone pavers, etc. Mary Longacre suggested that these sidewalks may have been installed originally by the adjacent homeowners and were now, only lately, the Town's responsibility. Several committee members agreed that this was reasonable explanation. Ed Gillum reminded committee members that at one time the Town contributed bricks to homeowners if they would use them on a sidewalk.

5.. Other Road and Right of Way Concerns Related to DPW Restructuring.

The bulk of this agenda item was covered in previous agenda items. Ed Gillum suggested that the Town may have to contract for its administrative support work. Mary Longacre mentioned that many Town employees are commuters from the mainland so that out-sourced relief may not be that significant.

6. DayBreak Nantucket, Monday, August 9th: Roads and ROW July Meeting.

This topic was covered in the introductory public comments, agenda item 1.C. Allen Reinhard added, though, that he thought the discussion on roundabouts was particularly relevant. Mary Longacre suggested that the committee consider them from the vantage of bicycle riders and pedestrians.

7. Old, New, and Other Business, and Member Comments,

Although Allen Reinhard asked if there was any old, new, or other business and members continued to talk about sidewalks. Allen Reinhard reminded the group that he is collecting names of ways without sidewalks. These would be addition to those mentioned in our letter to the Select Board of November 2020. He mentioned Parker Lane and Lee Saperstein said that the absence of a bike path on North Beach Street was particularly hazardous given the volume of cyclists headed to Jetties Beach. Ed Gillum agreed. Allen Reinhard said that this would be a continuing project for the committee and that he would maintain contact with the Traffic Safety Work Group and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Phil Smith said strongly that we need to have the GIS Coordinator, Nathan Porter, come to one or more of our meetings because he is the source of knowledge on beach access. Allen Reinhard agreed and said that he would invite him to a future meeting. Phil Smith is working to identify all ways to the beach and to improve the Town's list of private versus public ways.

Rick Atherton added that our mission statement speaks first to access to the water and that this topic was extremely important. He asked Phil Smith if there is a list of beach access points and Phil Smith said yes and that he had a copy that he would share with committee members. Mary

Longacre said that in addition to herself, Vince Murphy should get a copy. Speaking of beach access, Allen Reinhard said that there are a few public way markers that need to be installed and is hopeful that the DPW can do this for us once they are re-organized.

8. Adjourn.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm by consensus. The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on **Tuesday, September 21, 2021.**

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary _____ Date _____

Roads and Right of Way Outstanding Projects List:

Public Way Monument Project: (Lee & Allen & Snookie)

- Install remaining monuments at 'Sconset Footpath, Hulbert Ave.
- Update file of existing monuments
- Move monuments at Westchester St. Ext. & Crooked Lane

Sidewalk Projects: (Allen)

- Prospect St. (bike path to Upper Vestal St.) and on to Madaket bike path
- Cliff Rd. Coffin Park to bike path at Sherburne Tpk.
- Pleasant St. Gardner Perry Lane to Williams St.
- Follow implementation of downtown sidewalk improvements
- Bike/Pedestrian connection from Surfside to Hummock Pond to Madaket paths

Harbor Walk Project: (Rick)

- Identify route and identify sections needing constructed walkway
- Concept drawings of construction required
- List permits and approvals needed and process to obtain
- Funding

Chapter 91 Monitor Project: (Leslie & Lee)

- Define goals for project
- Make local license information available on line
- Chapter 91 licenses along route for the Harbor Walk
- Locate other locations on Nantucket and Madaket Harbors requiring licenses

Nantucket Greenway and Trail System Project: (Allen and Lee)

- Nantucket Central Rail Road trail
- Map existing island trail and footpath systems and identify missing links

- How should maps and information be shared?

E-Mail from Lee Saperstein to Libby Gibson, Town Manager, and Andrew Vorce, Director of Planning; sent June 6, 2021.

Andrew and Libby: It was my intention to speak against the “roundabout prohibition” article but a medical concern got in my way. According to the I & M, it passed by a narrow margin and is non-obligatory. Below is what I was going to say. If this should also go to the Select Board, that would be fine with me. I’m happy to chat more about my concern.

Reasons not to have a stop-sign controlled intersection at Bartlett and Surfside Roads.

1. The proposed Roundabout was designed by a traffic expert for whom I have a great deal of respect. Many of us are experienced drivers but few of us are traffic-design experts. Mike Burns is.
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2. Stop Sign discipline on Nantucket is not good. I had occasion to make that remark to Chief Pittman and he regaled me with anecdotes of bad stop-sign behavior that he and his officers had seen.
3. The two existing rotaries, Milestone and Sparks, are surrounded by pedestrian crosswalks. I have not heard that the incidence of accidents is greater there than at stop signs.
4. The traffic back-up at the existing intersection is frustratingly long and wasteful of fuel.
5. With respect to children and roundabouts, I am something of an old experienced hand; they are respectful of traffic. In the last Christmas break before the pandemic, we visited with my London family and it fell upon me to do the school run with my granddaughter. The route included the A316, a major artery in and out of London and with roundabouts of all sizes and traffic control; the route also included city streets through Twickenham, also with roundabouts including mini-ones. The last were really painted circles in the middle of existing intersections. To the point, I passed at least six schools with school children of both primary and secondary ages. I’d ask my granddaughter if she recognized their uniforms and she would tell me to which school they were going. Uniformly rambunctious and raucous on the sidewalk, they were careful and cautious as they approached pedestrian crossings. Children have a strong sense of self-protection, at least where traffic is concerned.

For your amusement. My experience is that they are rotaries in Massachusetts, roundabouts in England, and traffic circles in New Jersey and New York. The distinction is purely diction; any attempt at making technical distinctions is pushing the noodle. All the same thing.

Thanks for reading. Lee