



TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP

Remote Participation Via Zoom

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020

Order Regarding Open Meeting Law

Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554

www.nantucket-ma.gov

~~ Minutes ~~

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Staff in attendance: Operations Administrator Erika Mooney (signed off); Town Minute Taker Terry Norton
Attending Members: Arthur Gasbarro (chair); Lt. Angus MacVicar, Nantucket Police Department; Commission on Disability Chair Milton Rowland; Deputy Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Stephen Arceneaux
Members Absent: Fire Chief Steve Murphy

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Gasbarro – Informed the public that Mr. Jack Gardner will no longer serve on the Work Group.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding encroachments on Washington Avenue, Madaket.

Documentation Correspondence from Tim Pedrotty dated Apr. 13

Public Janie Hobson-Dupont, 11 Washington Avenue

Speakers Betsy Brown, 7 Washington Avenue

James Pedrotty, 12 Washington Avenue

Kathleen Atwood, 17 Washington Avenue

Derek Odell, 3 Washington Avenue

Melissa Walsh, 9 Washington Avenue

Jennifer Blate, for 18 Washington Avenue

Max Brown, 15 Washington Avenue

Carol Rogers, 6 C Street

Discussion **Gasbarro** – The resident comments and concerns have been heard and are being worked on by the Town Manager and staff. There will be no action on this today; this is an update. Nothing is going to be physically done in the immediate future. A surveyor is working on a plan. The Town will be back in touch with all the residents.

Hobson-Dupont – We've talked about this and want to say Washington Avenue is a quiet street and in the 30 years she's lived on the street she has not seen any accidents. Nantucket Regional Transit Authority (NRTA) drivers are very cautious driving down the street. As a group, we feel we are being asked to change the character and appeal of the neighborhood. Asked for a thorough traffic safety assessment to see if the proposed action is warranted.

B. Brown – She has lived on Washington Avenue since 1976 and never felt there was a safety issue. She's distressed by the proposed work. We have a coalition of 20 households who share these concerns; read the names of all the neighbors with shared concerns. Hopes for a resolution that appeals to everyone.

Pedrotty – In the letter, it is requested TSWG have this as an action item and that action is to have a pause on the removal of encroachments. Asked if that could be put to a vote.

Gasbarro – It could go to a vote; his opinion is it is in the hands of Town Administration, so he wouldn't be inclined to make a motion.

Pedrotty – He’s assured by the statement nothing will happen in a day or a week; but in that time, no study could be conducted. Asked how he might better define the word “pause.”

Gasbarro – We are advisory to Town Manager only; it seems to him people have come to think of this Work Group as having some regulatory authority; that is not the case.

Walsh – Given the number of people here and all those interested, we’ve sent letters but haven’t heard back from Town Administration. It’s upsetting we’re hearing this here and not from Town Administration. Asked the Work Group to encourage the Town Administration to engage in some level of direct communication.

Odell – It might be helpful if Town Administration considers engaging with 2 or 3 residents to work on the perceived problem and come to an equitable conclusion. We’re happy to cooperate as long as we know what’s going on.

Gasbarro – Suggest they contact Ken Beaugrand, the Town Real Estate specialist.

Atwood – Agrees with Mr. Odell.

Blate – It seems like someone wants to make big changes like widening the road. Asked what the actual safety issue is someone is trying to address. This seems to be in response to an anecdotal issue made by someone who doesn’t live on the street.

M. Brown – Agrees with everything that’s been said.

Rogers – We walk the street every day in the Summer. We’ve never felt there was a safety issue and there has never been even a close call. Wonders what precipitated all of this.

Gasbarro – Appreciates the comments. Town Administration and Select Board are aware of the neighbors’ concerns and issues; resolving this is within their realm. He will convey to them the number of people who spoke, concerns, and desire to come to a solution.

Action **No action taken.**

Roll-call Vote N/A

2. Request for yellow no-parking across from 10 York Street (Continued from March 18, 2021).

Documentation Site plan.

Discussion **Gasbarro** – This is for a yellow line opposite 10 York Street. He must recuse but, without a vice chair, he will attempt to facilitate without participating or voting.

Jeff Kaschuluk, co-applicant – Explained what is causing the problem with accessing the driveway and why a yellow line is needed.

Rowland – Asked to indicate the length of the yellow line.

Kaschuluk – It’s the entire length of the frontage of 10 York Street.

Rowland – He has no problem with this as it will also help pedestrian traffic.

Arceneaux – He received the driveway access request; pending the Work Group’s decision, he will move forward appropriately.

MacVicar – Looks good

Action **Motion to Recommend elimination of parking as shown on the plan.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 3-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar-aye; Gasbarro recused.

3. Request for “No Parking Either Side” on Parker Lane.

Documentation Video, GIS aerial map, photos

Discussion **Gasbarro** – This is not parking both sides of the road. This goes back to August 2020. A concern was that with no parking there would be an increase in speed; it was decided to place no-parking lines and signs at each end of the street.

David Fiendel – The lines discussed are there; this is beyond that due to an increase in traffic from development. He sent a video of traffic interaction on the Hooper Farm Road intersection. He anticipates the same situation occurring at Fairgrounds Road, especially once 61 Fairgrounds Road is developed.

Gasbarro – He supports this. The lines installed after last August were the 1st-phase to see if it would help. Sometimes, on-street parking helps impede traffic flow and reduce speeding; that will be the tradeoff.

MacVicar – That is the case; parking helps mitigate speed. However, speeding isn't an issue on this road. No parking would be okay there.

Action **Motion to Recommend approval of no parking either side on Parker Lane.** (made by: Arceneaux) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

4. Nantucket Food Pantry: Request for loading zone on Candle Street adjacent to 10 Washington Street.

Documentation Correspondence

Discussion **Gasbarro** – Food Pantry is requesting a loading zone in front of their doors. This is a very heavily traveled road.

Janis Carreiro, Executive Director Food and Rental Assistance – We are asking for designation of a loading zone only from 2-6 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when we are busiest. People tend to park there all day when they take the boat. We bring food in from an off-site location, and we have drivers coming in frequently to load their cars with groceries to be delivered to home-bound clients. The change would impact the two parking spots in front of the Food Pantry's two doors.

Gasbarro – Asked if it could be changed to 1-hour parking, which might help to maintain turn-over and be exempt from those with residential stickers.

MacVicar – That is correct.

Gasbarro – He has a concern that an incremental loading zone would create an enforcement problem. We could, make it 1-hour parking from Salem to this point. Another thought is it would be better if the two spots start at the NRTA lot making it easier for pull in/pull out.

Rowland – This does seem to have a need, especially considering the people who use this service. It would help even with just 1-hour parking. It would make more sense to have it start at the NRTA lot.

Gasbarro – Another option is to make the 2 spots 15-minute parking rather than calling it a loading zone. That would promote an ability to regularly enforce it.

MacVicar – That is a great idea.

Carreiro – 15-minute parking that can be enforced would be a big help. Agrees limiting parking from NRTA to the door makes more sense. Pointed out it will take more than 15 minutes to unload the large van.

Gasbarro – The traffic safety is in the reduction of double parking, which pushes vehicles into the bike lane.

Arceneaux – He'd prefer a marked loading zone, but the 15-minute parking is a good compromise.

Gasbarro – Suggested starting with a single 15-minute spot and leave the location at the discretion of the DPW; the Food Bank can always come back if it is insufficient.

Arceneaux – One space won't be effective and could cause bumper-to-bumper situations.

Gasbarro – Suggested designating 25 feet.

Action **Motion to Recommend a 25-foot, 15-minute parking area opposite the Food Pantry door as positioned by the DPW.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

5. Request for additional accessible parking space in front of 15 Commercial Street.

Documentation Correspondence, GIS aerial map

Discussion **Gasbarro** – This is from Chief Pittman to freshen up the current accessible parking area and create an additional ADA space in front of 15 Commercial Wharf.

Rowland – At the proposed location for the new spot, the condition of the road and sidewalk is pretty rough; suggested farther up Whale Street where access is provided to the walkway along the pier.

MacVicar – The Chief thought that if this proposed location didn't work, the location proposed by Mr. Rowland would be good. Asked how to get the paint to stay on the curbing down by the Anglers' Club. We have a lot of issues trying to enforce that; you can barely see the blue delineation.

Rowland – Accessible parking spots aren't legal unless there's a sign, which should make it clear. Curb paint does wear off.

MacVicar – There is a sign there but with the blue delineation it's a little clearer cut.

Arceneaux – He can take a look at the location. We're trying to get line painters in; this isn't on our roster, but Ray Sylvia has been going around getting at locations where the large paint trucks can't go.

Action **Motion to Improve signage and marking at the existing accessible space and create a new space at the southerly end of Whale Street.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

6. Adoption of Agenda Protocol/Public Comment Policy.

Documentation Public Comment protocol

Discussion **Gasbarro** – This was suggested by Chief Pittman, to create a public speaking protocol with respect to public comment which reflects the protocol used by the Select Board.

Action **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

7. Discuss Designating Backus Lane as a School Zone.

Documentation Correspondence

Discussion **Gasbarro** – This is a request to help with speeding and improve safety along the road. His question is if it is a designated School zone. If it's a private road, we could recommend the Town take the road considering the schools and school fields.

Arceneaux – He'd have to talk to Mr. McNeil on this; there's been a lot of discussion on the roads around the schools.

Gasbarro – We could refer this to Roads and Right-of-way Committee.

Arceneaux – Since this abuts to so much school property, he wouldn't presume the Town taking the road from the schools.

Gasbarro – Will forward Mr. McNeil's suggestion to the school.

Action **No action taken.**

Roll-call Vote N/A

V. OTHER BUSINESS (Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting)

1.none

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of March 18, 2021.

Action **Motion to Adopt.** (made by: MacVicar) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Action **Motion to Adjourn at 11:52 a.m.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call Vote Carried 4-0//Rowland, Arceneaux, MacVicar, and Gasbarro-aye

List of additional documents used at the meeting:

1. Draft minutes of March 18, 2021