



## 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](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov)

~~ Minutes ~~

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Staff in attendance: Operations Administrator Erika Mooney; Lines and Signs Foreman Ray Sylvia; Real Estate Specialist Ken Beaugrand; Town Minute Taker Terry Norton

Attending Members: Arthur Gasbarro (Chair); Jack Gardner (Vice Chair); Fire Chief Steve Murphy; Police Chief William Pittman; Commission on Disability Chair Milton Rowland; Department of Public Works (DPW) Interim Director Stephen Arceneaux

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called to order at 10:30 a.m.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### III. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

1. Review request to eliminate on-street parking at 13 Commercial Street.

Documentation Request from homeowner; GIS map; GIS aerial map; deed for 13 Commercial Wharf; Land court Plan No. 10752-C; Easement document

Discussion **Ann Desruisseaux**, 13 Commercial Street – We own the land the street is on in front of our house. We feel on-street parking is dangerous because the road is 2-way traffic and the parked cars force traffic up onto the sidewalk; the street is very narrow in front of our house. Also, parked vehicles have blocked our driveway. We question whether or not on-street parking was intended when the right of way was given. Explained other issues resulting in damage to the bushes and how parked cars end up in the middle of a 2-way street.

**Beaugrand** – This is a complicated legal issue, so we requested and received an opinion from Town Counsel; the request goes into the history of the property as well as the easements. Town Counsel's opinion is that the Town has the right to have designated parking and this area can't be restricted by a private property owner.

**Gasbarro** – Based upon that opinion, the Town has control of this street. The next question is would there be a recommendation for a change based upon traffic-safety concerns. Explained that TSWG is an advisory group to the Town Manager; when it comes to the elimination of on-street parking, especially downtown, the Select Board makes the final decision. He would have a hard time recommending removal of on-street parking at this location.

**Arceneaux** – Typically when a homeowner submits a special permit within the old historic district, there's an option to have the Select Board issue a special permit to remove parking. Asked if there is a process to take this to the Select Board to have the space to be removed.

**Mooney** – There is no special permit involved with this; Select Board asks TSWG to give a recommendation,

Discussion on Mr. Murphy's motion to maintain on-street parking:

**Gardner** – When people park along that hedge, two cars can't pass.

**Pittman** – He agrees with Mr. Gasbarro and doesn't support losing parking. NPD has had internal discussions about parking and this street has come up regarding extending the core district to include Commercial Street in order to keep the parking moving.

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| Action         | <b>Mooney</b> – This does not preclude the property owner from making a request to the Select Board.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Roll-call Vote | <b>Motion to maintain the on-street parking.</b> (made by: Murphy) (seconded)<br>Carried 6-0//Gardner, Pittman, Arceneaux, Murphy, Rowland, and Gasbarro-aye                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                | 2. Revisit issues of on-street parking on Starbuck Road from 2020.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Speakers       | <b>Mike Byrne</b> , 40 Starbuck Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Documentation  | Email thread re: Starbuck Rd parking; photo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Discussion     | <b>Byrne</b> – Summarized his email dated 10/20/21. Hoping for a recommendation to limit parking on the south end of the road to one side of the road; suggested parking along the outside (south side) of the road. People are parking on private property, even lawns. The Madaket Land Trust (MLT) does extensive brush cutting; unfortunately, that encourages people to park on their land; we are thinking of not brush cutting to mitigate the parking problem. As a Trustee of MLT, he could accept parking on their property on the non-water side.<br><b>Gasbarro</b> – Between 37 and 43 Starbuck there would be on-side only parking.<br><b>Pittman</b> – This summer, we wrote a lot of tickets out there. There isn't enough parking in the designated area; he doesn't know if parking on one side will resolve the issue. If people park on the road, that doesn't leave sufficient room for emergency access. Looking through his complaints, many were from people parking on John Weiss' property; if we encourage parking on that side of the road, it won't solve that issue. Parking on the non-water side would keep the ocean view open.<br><b>Murphy</b> – Cars parking on both sides is a concern because there is not sufficient off-road space.<br><b>Mooney</b> – Noted minutes from 2020 that referenced brush cutting and widening the road. Asked if that had been done. |
| Action         | <b>Motion to recommend 1-side parking starting at Baltimore Avenue around to 47 Starbuck with no parking on the south side.</b> (made by: Pittman) (seconded)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Roll-call Vote | Carried 6-0//Gardner, Pittman, Arceneaux, Rowland, Murphy, and Gasbarro-aye                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                | 3. Revisit issues of speeding on Madaket Road (follow-up from July 15, 2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Speakers       | Patrick McEvoy, 7 Madaket Road<br>Dan Driscoll, 15 Madaket Road<br>Ashley Leo, 0 Winn Street<br>Justin Schaeffer, (no address given)<br>Nicholas Leo, 0 Winn Street<br>Don McDermett, 4 Madaket Road<br>Jason Vogel, 6 Hedgebury Lane<br>Tharon McEvoy, 7 Madaket Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Documentation  | Email from Patrick McEvoy; portion of TSWG minutes of 7/15/2021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Discussion     | <b>P. McEvoy</b> – The DPW cut back growth making the signage more visible, and NPD has responded to complaints; however, the problem continues. Thinks a moveable or permanent traffic device on the north side of the road facing west or a patrolman with radar to write tickets would help.<br><b>Driscoll</b> – Agrees with Mr. McEvoy. Likes the idea of the traffic device.<br><b>A. Leo</b> – She is petrified to walk onto Winn Street. They also speed on Winn Street and asked for speed bumps; there are a number of families with small children.<br><b>Schaeffer</b> – Seconds everything that's been said.<br><b>N. Leo</b> – Seconds everything that's been said. Simple things will make people aware that they are speeding on Madaket and Winn.<br><b>Mooney</b> – The paved section of Winn Street is private; abutters could install speed bumps if they so choose.<br><b>McDermett</b> – There is a real safety issue that stems from the fact there is no space between the road and bike path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

**Vogel** – Echoes concerns that have been raised.

**Gasbarro** – Several meetings ago, we discussed this and there were comments about encroachment. He's not sure we can install a permanent, flashing sign; he'd support putting the trailer out there but doesn't know if there is a good location for it. His recollection for the lack of separation between the bike path and road has to do with the cemetery and there being remains along the fence.

**McEvoy** – Suggested placing the trailer on the shoulder between 5 & 13 Hedgebury.

**Pittman** – You can't put the trailer on the bike path. We get a lot of requests for the trailer, so we'll add this area to the list. Permanent flashing lights are not allowed. When we set the trailer up and take it down, that takes a patrolman off the street for about an hour a day; and we are short staffed. If the Town can fill the Traffic Manager (sic) position, they could take over management of the trailer.

**Gasbarro** – Thinks the trailer might be the best way to respond to concerns expressed today.

**T. McEvoy** – Asked if digital solar-powered speed signs were allowed. Other places have monitors, which photograph license plates of speeders.

**Pittman** – The bylaw prohibits all electronic signs on Nantucket. You'd have to get that law changed. Electronic ticketing is not allowed in Massachusetts. We are allowed the portable trailer but still get a lot of complaints about it.

**Arceneaux** – He can envision engineering a temporary system of speed bumps/tables but has to talk to Police and Fire about how it would impact their operations.

**Mooney** – Usually any recommendations for speed tables/bumps requires a Transportation Planner and placing them along major truck routes is frowned upon.

**Murphy** – He would be against any speed tables/bumps on Madaket Road.

**P. McEvoy** – Asked if rumble strips, like in front of the Boys & Girls Club, would be a problem. He will also contact the Chamber of Commerce to reach out to local businesses; however, it seems we could be prioritizing construction of the safety of residents.

**Gasbarro** – The "20 Is Plenty" was a great campaign but wasn't enforceable. Suggested coming up with a campaign slogan to get word out about the 25 MPH. The trailer could be placed between Winn Street and Dukes Road.

Action

**No action taken.**

Roll-call Vote

N/A

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS (Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting)**

1. **Gasbarro** – Along the south side of Old South Road, off-street parking is becoming heavy across from ACK Dental and between Mary Ann Drive and Pine Tree Road; it is posted as no-parking either side.

**Mooney** – It is also happening on First Way between the "interschool" roadway and Cow Pond Lane.

#### **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. The minutes of August 19, 2021.

Action

**Motion to Adopted by unanimous consent.**

Roll-call Vote

N/A

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Action

**Motion to 11:51. (made by: Gardner) (seconded)**

Roll-call Vote

Carried 6-0//Pittman, Rowland, Arceneaux, Murphy, Gardner, and Gasbarro-aye

List of additional documents used at the meeting:

1. Draft minutes August 19, 2021