



TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP

Meeting Trailer
131 Pleasant Street
Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554
www.nantucket-ma.gov

~~ Minutes ~~

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Staff in attendance: Operations Administrator Erika Mooney; Town Minute Taker Terry Norton
Attending Members: Arthur Gasbarro (chairman); Interim Fire Chief Marty Greene; Police Chief William Pittman; Commission on Disability Chair Milton Rowland; Transportation Program Manager Patrick Reed; DPW Lines and Signs Foreman Ray Sylvia

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 10:32 a.m.

II. MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE/SILENCE FOR LONG-TIME MEMBER AND VICE CHAIR JACK GARDNER

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Consideration of continuing Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 to a future meeting to allow Transportation Planner time to study the areas and town loading zones.

1. Review request to designate Easy Street between Cambridge Street and Broad Street as a No Standing Zone.
Documentation: email from Art Gasbarro with aerial map and photo of Easy Street.

2. Discussion regarding possible loading zone on Federal Street from Noon to 4:00 PM to replace "No parking or standing" area by The Hub.
Documentation: Email from Ray Sylvia with aerial GIS map.

3. Review citizen concern with loading zones and parking area blockage at 19 South Water Street.
Documentation: Email from Annie Teasdale.

4. Review request to mark the dedicated loading zone on Coffin Street on the pavement by the Lobster Trap.
Documentation: Email from Gary McCarthy with photos of Coffin Street.

Chair Gasbarro stated the four items listed above are global issues and will be reviewed and addressed over the winter months and will be looked at in aggregate vs. piecemeal. The Work Group consensus was to move on to the other matters.

Other items for review.

1. Review request to eliminate on-street parking on Coffin Street – or – make Coffin Street one way running from Union Street to Washington Street and keep on-street parking on west side of road.
Documentation Email from Gary McCarthy with photos of Coffin Street.

Discussion **Gasbarro** – Reviewed the situation predicating the request.
Sylvia – He believes the loading zone is seasonal.
Reed – He looked at this; he doesn’t know that turning into one-way is feasible; it is a tight road. We could look at more tactical solutions that keep it two-way and retains parking. The parking in place keeps traffic moving slow.
Pittman – There have been no accident reports other than a hit-and-run car with minimal damage. The big problem is the food truck using the loading zone for parking; suggested restricting parking to passenger vehicles only. A loading zone shouldn’t be used beyond loading-unloading. Also stretches of parking are blocked off for use by Rafael Osona. We need to see drawings with measurements.
Gasbarro – suggested taking no action.
Rowland – It doesn’t make sense to change the traffic flow. There is a yellow line on both sides at Washington Street. The loading zone could be eliminated to prevent vehicles from jamming up when turning onto Coffin Street.
Discussion followed about possibly moving the loading zone to Washington Street in front of the Lobster Trap.

Action **Consensus to take no action.**
Roll-call vote N/A

2. Review request to look at the intersection of East Chestnut Street and Federal Street for site line visibility issues.

Documentation Email from Town Manager

Discussion **Mooney** – Courtesy van parking is on East Chestnut Street and Federal Street; when they pull out of East Chestnut Street, it’s hard to see traffic coming from Broad Street.
Pittman – He’s looked at this; the issue is as described. The traffic is generally slow along Federal Street, so the likelihood of accidents is low. The only solution he sees is eliminating van parking in front of Visitor Services which is problematic.
Gasbarro – Suggested swapping the spot with the town employee parking on East Chestnut Street.
Mooney – The only official parking is by the sheriff’s office. Suggested swapping the courtesy van parking on Federal with the timed public parking East Chestnut Street.
Discussion of Ms. Mooney’s suggestion.
Discussion on the motion

Action **Motion to relocate courtesy van parking to East Chestnut Street from Federal Street to the official parking spaces with a time limit subject to having Mr. Sylvia to meet with Visitor Services.** (made by: Pittman) (seconded)

Roll-call vote Carried 6-0//Pittman, Rowland, Reed, Sylvia, Greene, and Gasbarro-aye

3. Request to extend No Parking Zone (yellow line) in front of 11 Quince Street.

Documentation Letter and photos from property owner

- Discussion **Mooney** – Susan Einbinder, owner 11 Quince Street, is concerned about parking in front of the front door impeding emergency access and people parking on the yellow line. She had the Fire Prevention Officer inspect this; he felt the access was sufficient through the side gate. This is one of the few properties without a yellow line in front of the door on Quince Street.
Einbinder – She cannot access her home through her front door or safely step down onto the sidewalk; feels she has a right to access her home through her front door. This is a safety item. Cars parking across the yellow line block accessibility to her driveway. Asks that the yellow line be extended to cover her front door.
Rowland – Looking at the street view, we could switch the parking to the north side of the street where the sidewalk is wider. The Einbinder’s side is better for wheelchair access than the other but is blocked by vehicles. He’d like to take a better look at this.
Reed – Asked if anyone knows the number of entryways on each side of the road. He’s inclined to extend the yellow line per Ms. Einbinder’s request. If we move parking across the street, you would want to look at turning radii at the driveways. He thinks the loss of one parking is acceptable in this case
Sylvia – Doesn’t think a full space would fit between her drive and door. If you switch to the other side, you’d still need yellow lines to allow backing out of driveways.
Greene – His concern would be setting a precedent.
- Action **Motion to extend the yellow line in front of 11 Quince Street as requested.** (made by: Reed) (seconded)
- Roll-call vote Carried 4-2//Sylvia, Rowland, Reed, and Gasbarro-aye; Greene & Pittman-nay

Mr. Greene left the meeting at 11:16 AM.

4. Surfside Association: Request for two stop signs:

a. one driving north on the Boulevard at Clifford Street

Documentation Email from Thomas Szydlowski; MUTCD Guidelines

Discussion **Mooney** – Stop signs are not used for speed control.

Tom Szydlowski – Surfside Association brought up both these spots as dangerous based upon visibility. Speed is an issue but most of the issue is the angle and not being able to see cars coming north on Boulevard.

Rowland – He thinks a 3-way stop is a good idea at this location.

Reed – Wasn’t in favor at first but seeing how there is already a stop sign on the Boulevard, he is in favor. He added the angle of the intersection warrants a 3-way stop.

Gasbarro – Agrees with Mr. Reed. Typically he wouldn’t support the through road being stop-controlled; however, the combination of adverse conditions support a fully controlled intersection.

Action **Motion to recommend the installation of a stop sign at this location.** (made by: Rowland) (seconded)

Roll-call vote Carried 5-0//Rowland, Reed, Pittman, Sylvia, and Gasbarro-aye

b. one driving south on Lovers Lane at Okorwaw Avenue.

Documentation Email from Thomas Szydlowski; MUTCD Guidelines

Discussion **Gasbarro** – Reviewed the request and noted that there is a stop sign on Okorwaw Avenue at Lovers Lane.

Tom Szydlowski – This was more for speed attenuation. If the brush on the northeast corner of the intersection would facilitate visibility at the stop sign.

Mooney – As a resident, brush cutting on both corners would be very helpful.

Sylvia – DPW recently trimmed Okorwaw but not the intersection. He’ll add it to the list.

Action **DPW to trim brush.**

Roll-call vote N/A

5. Request to address pedestrian safety concerns on Trotters Lane.

Documentation Email from Adam Stillman

Discussion **Adam Stillman**, Trotters Lane – He sees people coming off Fairgrounds Road and speeding down Trotters Lane; there are no sidewalks or night lighting. Since speedbumps went in on Newtown Road, this has become the alternate cut through. Asked if there was consideration of the effect on speed bumps on Newtown Road on other streets.

Mooney – Trotters is now being used as a cut through. Newtown Road is slated for repaving and sidewalks but hasn't been scheduled yet; speed humps are an interim solution. Regarding the flickering streetlight, contact National Grid. Trotters is heavily traversed by school children in the morning; suggest a "Slow Children" sign.

Reed – We can look at doing a study with speed counters; he wouldn't be opposed to hearing the Work Group's thoughts on implementation of speed humps. Asked about speed limit signs; suggested signs at each end to see if it makes a difference.

Mr. Greene returned to the meeting at 11:26 AM.

Pittman – The speed humps were contentious, and this committee voted against them. The Select Board voted to put in the speed humps. We get regular complaints about people trying to avoid the speed humps and trucks and trailers making noise going over them. The Select Board adopted the 25 MPH speed limit island-wide unless posted otherwise. The DPW started getting requests for new speed-limit signs and implemented a policy that they won't put them up unless the Traffic Safety Work Group recommends them. Studies have said that signs don't stop speeding; it's enforcement, traffic calming, and design.

Gasbarro – He'd support a speed limit sign at each end of the road.

Sylvia – You can put the Slow Children and speed limit on the same post.

Action **Motion to install a 25 MPH speed-limit sign at each end of Trotters Lane.** (made by: Reed) (seconded)

Roll-call vote Carried 6-0//Sylvia, Rowland, Reed, Pittman, Greene, and Gasbarro-aye

6. Request to address vehicular and pedestrian safety concerns on Vesper Lane.

Documentation Email from David Chase

Discussion **Mooney** – Reviewed the request as laid out in Mr. Chase’s email.
Reed – Suggested tabling in hopes Mr. Chase can attend.

Action **Tabled for representation.**

Roll-call vote N/A

7. Request to address pedestrian safety concerns at Miacomet Avenue/Surfside Road.

Documentation Email thread between Patrick Reed and Meg Browsers; email from Art Gasbarro; Miacomet Avenue & Surfside Road Tactical Safety Improvements presentation

Discussion Not opened at this time.

Action **Tabled for representation.**

Roll-call vote N/A

8. Request for additional speed limit signs on Quidnet Road.

Documentation Email from Quidnet Squam Assn.; email from Rick Atherton

Discussion **Mooney** – They are asking for 20 MPH signs on both sides; that is unenforceable because 25 is the minimum speed Island wide.

Sylvia – This road is posted 30 MPH at the Wauwinet end and 20 MPH at the other end.

Pittman – Part of Quidnet Road is private; the 20 MPH is on the private section. The 30 MPH is on the public section; he doesn’t think Quidnet meets the criteria for “thickly settled.” What’s being asked is not possible; we can ask the Select Board if they want to reduce the speed from 30 MPH to 25 MPH.

Gasbarro – Suggested taking no action and asking the requester to make it to the Select Board.

Action **No action at this time.**

Roll-call vote N/A

9. Request for no parking designation on west side of Mill Street between Prospect Street and Mill Hill Lane.

Documentation email from Richard Griffith

Discussion **Richard Griffith**, 24 Mill Street – Explained the parking situation precipitating this request. Asking for parking only on one side of Mill Street. There are only 4 homes on this section, and they support this request and asked him to make this request. The people parking on the west side are associated with homes on the that side. Brush clearing might also be helpful.

Gasbarro – Restricting parking to one side makes sense.

Action **Motion to eliminate parking on the west side of Mill Street.** (made by: Pittman) (seconded)
Ms. Mooney will speak with Real Estate Specialist Ken Beaugrand about possible encroachments on Mill Street and Prospect Street.

Roll-call vote Carried 6-0//Sylvia, Rowland, Reed, Pittman, Greene, and Gasbarro-aye

10. Request for reversal of “no parking” on south side of Coffin Street, Siasconset.

Documentation Email from Tom Forman; photo

Discussion **Tom Forman**, 6 Coffin Street – Parking on Coffin Street had been allowed on the grass apron on the south side and no parking on the north. In May, a sign appeared prohibiting parking on both sides the full length of Coffin Street. We tried to abide by it, but it was frustrating. It pushed on-street parking off Coffin Street, which is wide, onto the single-lane side streets. It eliminated dozens of parking spaces. Removing parking allowed people to drive faster along Coffin Street. Parking should be eliminated at the intersections but not the whole of Coffin Street.
Gasbarro – He recalls the ‘Sconset Civic Association put this request forward; wonders if the intent was misinterpreted.
Sylvia – No parking should be at the corner with the yellow line going to Lindberg Avenue. He can swap out the sign with one “from here to corner” sign.
Pittman – Suggested checking with the Civic Association to ensure a “here to corner” sign is in keeping with their intent.

Action **Tabled to the next meeting.**

Roll-call vote N/A

11. Commission on Disability: Request for additional accessible parking space at the end of Jefferson Avenue by Galley Beach.

Documentation Email from Commission on Disability Facilitator; Photos

Discussion **Rowland** – Asking for a 3rd accessible spot.

Gasbarro – Asked if its’ likely all 3 would be used at the same time. Wonders how a compliant space would impact the roadway and making turning movements into the parking lot on the left.

Pittman – He’s not opposed but asked if doing this create a lot of empty accessible spaces. There are a lot of elderly who don’t have handicapped stickers. He’d like to table this to look at it.

Action **Tabled.**

Roll-call vote N/A

Mr. Rowland left the meeting at 11:15 AM.

12. Review request to eliminate signs on York Street close to Old Mill.

Documentation Email from Richard Pietrafesa; Photos

Discussion **Richard Pietrafesa**, York Street – This is a case of “sign creep”; reviewed the street signs which have been added over the years. Asked if there’s a way to reduce the number of signposts. The No Parking sign is completely covered by growth and not visible.

Sylvia – Explained the signage. The No Parking sign actually stopped people from parking on the yellow line.

Consensus – Supports removing the Blind Drive sign.

Reed – The Speed Hump sign is there by guidance.

Discussion about moving the Speed Hump sign to the location of the Blind Drive sign.

Action **Tabled to the next meeting.**

Roll-call vote N/A

13. Review request to redesign intersection of Sherburne Turnpike and Cliff Road.

Documentation Email from Andrew Perlman

Discussion **Mooney** – Reviewed the request to straighten the intersection.

Reed – It would be good to get feedback on this. The best outcome would be a standard T intersection; as designed, turns onto Sherburne Tpk are taken quickly. An offset intersection with Derrymore isn’t desirable. He asked members if they thought a redesign is worth pursuing.

Gasbarro – He’d support putting this on the traffic planning list. From the charge of this Work Group, a 90-degree turn would promote safety.

Action **Tabled.**

Roll-call vote N/A

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

1. Pittman – In the Old North Wharf, when pulling out onto Easy Street, parking on the right was indented; too many vehicles are parking there and block access out of Old North Wharf. The solution would be a yellow line from the drain to the intersection. There's plenty of room for 3 vehicles to park, if they park correctly.
Gasbarro – He supports this; he's experienced it. It falls under the 15' of an intersection rule. Have the DPW put the yellow line from the bottom of the ADA panel to the west side of the catch basin.
Sylvia – He'll put it on the list.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of May 19, 2022
Action **Motion to approve.** (made by: Pittman) (seconded)
Roll-call vote Carried 5-0//Sylvia, Reed, Pittman, Greene, and Gasbarro-aye

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Action **Motion to Adjourn at 12:32 pm.** (made by: Pittman) (seconded)
Roll-call vote Carried 5-0//Sylvia, Reed, Pittman, Green, and Gasbarro-aye

List of additional documents used at the meeting:

1. Draft minutes of May 19, 2022