

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2023. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom. Members present were Arthur Gasbarro, Transportation Program Manager Mike Burns, Police Chief William Pittman, Fire Chief Michael Cranson, Department of Public Works (DPW) Lines and Signs Foreman, Ray Sylvia, and Mickey Rowland of the Commission on Disability. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney was also present.

I. Call To Order

Chair Gasbarro called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Official Business

1. Review request for no parking in front of 49 Fair Street. Patricia Schoen of 49 Fair Street reviewed her request for no parking in front of her property, noting concerns about people parking on the sidewalk and a Town Elm tree on the edge of her property. Chair Gasbarro explained that parking on sidewalks occurs all over Nantucket and is permitted as long as the sidewalk is not completely blocked. He encouraged Ms. Schoen to discuss her concerns about the tree with the Tree Advisory Committee. David Wonderlich of 46 Fair Street said he has been parking in this location for at least 10 years and noted that he does not have off-street parking and bought his house relying on on-street parking. He said if Traffic Safety approves the request, it will result in two full blocks of no on-street parking on Fair Street. Mr. Wunderlich added that decades of on-street parking have not affected the Elm tree. He asked that the on-street parking remain. Bill Klein of 48 Fair Street stated that the whole Fair Street/Pine Street neighborhood is "parking deficient" and the last thing needed is the removal of more spaces. Tara Moss, daughter of Ms. Schoen, suggested allowing the parking of Comcast cars only and no parking on the sidewalk; she referenced the Town Traffic Regulations regarding obstructing sidewalks and requirements for a 10' wide clearance in the roadway to allow cars to go by, which pushes people to park on sidewalks. Chair Gasbarro said he feels he doesn't have enough information to recommend approval of the request. He suggested that Ms. Schoen prepare a plan with actual measurements and exactly how many spaces would be removed by her request. Mr. Burns said this is a tight corridor, curb to curb, and it might warrant a site visit. He said he defers to the Fire Chief about public safety accessibility. Chief Cranson said he would have to see actual dimensions but he would hesitate to remove on-street parking. Chair Gasbarro reiterated that he feels there is not enough information to support a change and for it to pass muster, a stronger application with more detailed information is needed. Ms. Schoen then requested better enforcement, saying she has seen no officers patrolling the area this summer. Chief Pittman assured Ms. Schoen that there are patrols in the area. Mr. Wunderlich said he sees the police almost every day issuing tickets. No action was taken on the request.

2. Review requests for:

a) No parking at front door of 8 Nantucket Avenue, or from Grant Avenue to driveway of 8 Nantucket Avenue; b) For "Slow" signs on Grant Avenue and Nantucket Avenue; c) For a "One-way" arrow to be placed at the intersection of Cliff Road and Nantucket Avenue. Merrielou Symes of 8 Nantucket Avenue reviewed her requests. She said it is an accident waiting to happen with pedestrians coming up Nantucket Avenue to Grant Avenue and cars coming around the corner. She said when there is parking along her property on Nantucket Avenue, it narrows the roadway, leaving less space for the vehicles, bikers and pedestrians travelling along it. Chair Gasbarro said if her front door access is blocked, she should call the Police Department. He said that Ms. Symes should improve her application with a plan with actual

dimension. Mr. Burns suggested referring the request for a yellow line to the DPW as it may warrant a review of the yellow lines in the area, not just at this specific location. Chief Pittman said he looked at the area and stated there is a regulation about parking close to an intersection and maybe some yellow lines could be installed at the corner of Grant and Nantucket Avenues, but an even bigger issue is sight lines. He said the Traffic Regulations state that hedges need be trimmed down to 36" from the height of the roadway at an intersection and that the hedge at 8 Nantucket Avenue is what is causing the sight line issues. Chair Gasbarro said Traffic Safety needs a plan with actual dimensions that shows the property and hedge and the area of yellow lines being requested. An as-built plan from 1999 was shown on screen and it showed the hedge is actually on Town property which could be seen as an encroachment matter. Mr. Burns said he would like one more month to take a look at this area and see what yellow lines are needed

Regarding the request for slow signs on Nantucket and Grant Avenues, Mr. Burns moved to take no action on that request; seconded by Chair Pittman; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chief Cranson – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

Chair Gasbarro reviewed the request for a one-way arrow at the intersection of Nantucket Avenue and Cliff Road. Mr. Burns suggested holding this request over to next month to view. Ms. Sylvia said he can easily install a one-way sign at the intersection. Mr. Burns then suggested to leave this to the discretion of the DPW. There was consensus to do so.

3. Review request for traffic calming devices on Goldstar Drive and Milestone Lane. There was no one present to speak on this matter. Chair Gasbarro said the applicant for a traffic calming device submitted the proper application and fee and the next step would be for Mr. Burns to put out traffic counters on the roadway. Mr. Burns noted he has speed and volume counts from 2015. Chair Gasbarro requested that new data be taken. Mr. Burns said he will try to get the traffic counters out during August.

4. Review requests from Siasconset Civic Association for:

a) Create 30-minute parking from 8am to 5pm in front of 5 Main Street between Shell Street and Park Lane.

Lynn Filipski, former President of the Siasconset Civic Association (SCA), reviewed the request. She said this area can provide three parking spaces and people have been parking there for hours at a time. She asked for shorter-term parking to open spaces for businesses and the post office. Some discussion followed on what the amount of timed parking should be and what it is in the rest of the area. Mr. Sylvia noted installing a sign here could be difficult because of the hedge. Mr. Rowland moved to make the area 30-minute parking; seconded by Chief Cranson. Chief Pittman said to make the entire area consistent as the Traffic Regulations don't allow for 10-minute parking which is what is currently at the post office. On Mr. Rowland's motion, by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chief Cranson – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted. Chair Gasbarro asked if the 10-minutes sign at the post office should just be changed to 15-minutes to be consistent with the Traffic Regulations; he asked Ms. Filipski how the SCA would feel about it. Ms. Filipski was in favor and thanked Chief Pittman for identifying an inconsistency. Mr. Sylvia said this can be done by the DPW.

b) Cut back foliage at 47 New Street within the public right of way to provide a grass shoulder for pedestrians.

Ms. Filipski reviewed the issue that the bushes in front of 47 New Street have grown out to the road edge and requested they be cut back. Ms. Mooney noted she looked at this and it is natural vegetation within the Town right-of-way, not landscaping or plantings, and asked if the DPW can just cut this area back. Mr. Sylvia said this area can be added to the list of trimming.

c) Remove encroaching gardening stakes around Sconset. Ms. Filipski reviewed the request, nothing she is asking for action along Coffin Street, West Sankaty Road and Morey Lane. Ms. Mooney noted that a former DPW foreman used to keep copies of Chapter 127 of the Town Bylaws about placing obstructions within the right-of-way and would hand them out to people as he removed metal stakes in public property. Mr. Sylvia said they will follow suit and work to remove the stakes on the identified areas.

5. Review request for new curb cut at 55 Union Street, resulting in the loss of on-street parking. Matt Brannon of 55 Union Street reviewed his request for a new curb cut. Chair Gasbarro voiced concerns that the proposed curb cut would leave a parking space in front of the house at 13' which is too small for a regular sized vehicle. He added that the work group's usual policy is to request two off-street spaces for every on-street parking space removed. Mr. Brannon said he can make the driveway two cars deep. Discussion followed on possibly relocating the driveway to the other side of the lot. Chair Gasbarro asked Mr. Brannon to show a new plan showing stacked parking for two spaces. Mr. Burnes moved to recommend approval on the condition the driveway provides for two off-street parking spaces; seconded by Chief Cranson; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chief Cranson – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

6. Review request of rideshare drivers to create a designated pick-up space for ride-share vehicles at the Hyline Ferry. Ms. Mooney noted there was no contact information given with the request and most signatures were illegible. Chief Pittman says the request goes against the Town's interests. With taxis, they are regulated by the Town, thus spaces are provided for them. With rideshares, there is no regulation and so public space shouldn't be provided. Mr. Burns asked about the possibility of a hybrid taxi/rideshare lane. Chief Pittman said no as it will create "World War III". Chair Gasbarro reviewed the challenges in keeping the peace between taxis and rideshares at the Airport. Mr. Burns said the area downtown needs to be looked at as a whole. No action was taken on the request.

7. Review request for "Deer Crossing" sign on Bartlett Road. There was no one present to speak on this matter. Chair Gasbarro asked if there was any support for a deer crossing sign as requested. Hearing none, Chair Gasbarro said no action would be taken on this request.

8. Review request for new curb cut at 15 Cliff Road (driveway relocation). Chair Gasbarro recused himself from this matter. Ms. Mooney reviewed the request, noting an existing driveway is proposed to move to the other side of the property. Chief Pittman moved to approve the request; seconded by Mr. Rowland; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chief Cranson – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

9. Review request to change Surfside Road/Miacomet Road/Surfside Drive to a 4-way stop. Mr. Burns gave an overview of his research on this intersection as a 4-way stop, noting it is a "hot spot" for crashes. He noted the Town has received a grant for "Safe Streets for All", and he would include this intersection as part of that grant. Chair Gasbarro noted Surfside Road is supposed to be no parking either side. Mr. Sylvia said he can install additional signage. Walter Flaherty asked where straightening out the intersection stands, noting it has been discussed for two years. Chair Gasbarro said it would be part of the grant study. Chief Pittman asked if it would help if the DPW could install split rail fence along this area. Chair Gasbarro asked if the DPW has the budget or ability to install split rail fence in this area. Mr. Sylvia said he will speak with the Director about this.

IV. Other Business (For topics not reasonably anticipated 48-hrs in advance of the meeting). There was no other business.

V. Approval of minutes of May 25, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

VI. Adjournment

Chief Pittman moved adjournment at 12:06 PM; seconded by Mr. Burns; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chief Cranson – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

Approved the 17th day of August 2023.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP
JULY 20, 2023 – 10:30 AM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- III. 1. Complaint form from Patricia Schoen; GIS property card for 49 Fair Street
- III. 2. Letter from Merrielou Symes; GIS plan and street view photo of 8 Nantucket Avenue; street view photo of intersection of Cliff Road and Nantucket Avenue
- III. 3. Application for Traffic Calming Device for Goldstar Drive/Milestone Lane with cover letter; GIS map
- III. 4. Email from Lynn Filipski/Siasconset Civic Association; street view photo of 5 Main Street, Sconset; GIS map of 47 New Street, Sconset
- III. 5. Emails from Matthew Brannon; Application for Curb Cut/Driveway Access Permit; photos; plans
- III. 6. Letter from rideshare drivers
- III. 7. Email from Julianne Swain with photos
- III. 8. Letter from Mark Cutone Architecture; Application for Curb Cut/Driveway Access Permit; locus and site plans; photos
- V. Draft minutes of May 25, 2023