

TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of August 17, 2023. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom. Members present were Arthur Gasbarro, Transportation Program Manager Mike Burns, Police Chief William Pittman, Department of Public Works (DPW) Lines and Signs Foreman Ray Sylvia, and Mickey Rowland of the Commission on Disability. Fire Chief Michael Cranson was not present.

I. Call To Order

Chair Gasbarro called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Official Business

1. Review request for no parking at front door of 8 Nantucket Avenue, or from Grant Avenue to driveway of 8 Nantucket Avenue (Continued from July 20, 2023). The requestor was not present. Chair Gasbarro noted that Mr. Burns had requested to continue this matter from July 20. Mr. Burns said he visited the site and moved to recommend a 6' yellow line in front of the front door on Nantucket Avenue; seconded by Mr. Rowland; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

2. Review request for slower speed limit on Tom Nevers Road. Randy Ringer, president of the Tom Nevers Civic Association, noted at a recent Association meeting, Bob Cole brought up that the speed limit on Tom Nevers Road is 40 MPH and often exceeded and in the absence of a sidewalk or bike lane, the Association is requesting to reduce the speed to 35 MPH. Bob Cole spoke in favor of the request, adding he'd like to see the speed limit at the curve at Old Tom Nevers Road be reduced to 30 MPH, noting a death there a couple of years ago. Claudine Curran also spoke in favor of a reduced speed limit. Mr. Ringer reiterated that the Association is requesting that the speed limit along Tom Nevers Road from Milestone Road to Old Tom Nevers Rd be 35 MPH, and 30 MPH from Old Tom Nevers Road to Tom Nevers Field. Mr. Burns said he would look to the Police Department on how to proceed. Chief Pittman explained that the area doesn't qualify as thickly settled and to reduce the speed limit down from 40 MPH to 35 MPH, an engineering study would need to be undertaken, the Town would need to petition/notify the Mass. Department of Transportation (DPT) and Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) for a speed limit reduction, and if approved by the MassDOT and RMV, the road could then be posted as 35 MPH and enforceable. He noted without MassDOT and RMV approval, the Town cannot just reduce the speed limit and it would be unenforceable. Chair Gasbarro asked Mr. Ringer if the Association would be interested in engaging in an engineering study with the Police Department. Mr. Ringer said he would investigate that and asked the Town to still install non-enforceable signs for 35 MPH. Chair Gasbarro said he doesn't support the installation of unenforceable speed limit signs. Chief Pittman also spoke against the installation of illegal signs. However, he said a yellow cautionary sign with an advisory speed of 30MPH could be installed at the curve. Mr. Ringer said that would be helpful. Some discussion followed on the process of getting an engineering study. Mr. Burns moved to recommend the installation of a yellow cautionary sign with an advisory speed of 30MPH at the curve at the intersection of Tom Nevers Road and Old Tom Nevers Road ; seconded by Chief Pittman; by roll call vote: Mr. Rowland – Yes; Mr. Burns – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

3. Review request for accessible parking space across from 21 Lily Street. The requestor was not present. Chair Gasbarro reviewed the request which the Commission for Disability reviewed. Mr. Rowland explained

that since the property at 21 Fair Street already had an off-street parking space with possibly room for two vehicles, it doesn't seem necessary to burden the road with an accessible space. Mr. Burns moved to take no action; seconded by Mr. Rowland; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

4. Review request for no parking alongside Center Street side of 14 Broadway. The requestor was not present. Chair Gasbarro reviewed the request. Mr. Burns said he was unable to visit the site and it is unclear to him what the issue is. There was consensus to table this matter to the next meeting.

5. Review request for no parking yellow line in front of 8 Mill Street. The requestor was not present. Chair Gasbarro reviewed the request, stating it would be helpful to have a map or plan. Mr. Rowland noted the stoop in question is very close to the corner of Mill and North Mill. He spoke in favor of the request. Chief Pittman asked if the steps are on Town property. Chair Gasbarro said more information is needed and the burden of providing that should be on the requestor. He said this might fall under the regulation regarding no parking near intersections. Some discussion followed on the need for measurements. There was consensus to table this matter for more information from the applicant.

6. Review request for widening Easton Street between North Beach Street and the Nantucket Hotel to alleviate traffic. The requestor was not present. Chair Gasbarro noted that the Land Bank, which owns the property at 65-67 Easton Street, has been working on a major project for its property and has been going before the Conservation Commission for a new park. Mr. Burns said the best solution would be a removal of parking on one side of the road but will hold off on making a recommendation as it would be too impactful. Chief Pittman moved to take no action; seconded by Mr. Rowland; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

7. Review request to explore making Gardner Street one-way. Jeremy Bloomer, 15 Gardner Street, stated that his neighbors have asked how to make Gardner Street one-way due to safety concerns, the impacts to the sidewalks from vehicles driving up on them, potholes from wear-and-tear and the Town's potential liability because Gardner Street being two-way requires vehicles to use the sidewalks as part of the road. Mr. Bloomer spoke in favor of Gardner Street becoming one-way from Liberty Street to the Civil War Monument on Main Street. He added that the high traffic of commercial vehicles has created this issue. Chair Gasbarro noted this has been a discussion item in the past. He added he thinks this needs to be more of a global review, possibly by the Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission (NP&EDC). Mr. Burns said this has been reviewed, noting the prior recommendation from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory committee (BPAC) was one way vehicle traffic with bike accommodations, with a bike lane going into Town and a bike route/share the road with traffic going toward the Civil War Monument. He said he can pull out the documents from the previous review. Chair Gasbarro asked for time to research the prior information and review at the next meeting. Mr. Bloomer said this has been an issue since pre-pandemic but that this summer has seen increased issues. Mr. Rowland asked for any crash data for Gardner Street to see what kind of accidents have taken place.

8. Review request for new curb cut at 34 Easton Street. Chair Gasbarro recused himself from this matter. Mr. Burns reviewed the request. Chief Pittman asked if this property had an existing driveway. Mr. Gasbarro, representing the applicant, said it did not. Chief Pittman moved approval. Mr. Rowland asked if the driveway access could be adjusted to accommodate an extra on-street parking space. Mr. Gasbarro responded that would not allow the vehicles to move into and out of the proposed off-street spaces. The

motion was seconded by Mr. Burns; by roll call vote: Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Mr. Burns – Yes; so voted.

IV. Other Business (For topics not reasonably anticipated 48-hrs in advance of the meeting). Mr. Sylvia asked about the designated parking spaces for the Post Office on N. Union Street, adding that Operations Administrator Erika Mooney was going to look into this to see if there has been any abuse of the spaces. He said he saw Postal vehicles parked there the other day. Chair Gasbarro said he also noticed Postal vehicles parked there, and suggested a follow up with Town Administration.

Mr. Burns noted he has been asked about bicycle rights-of-way at intersections, noting he has been fielding requests for stop signs on bike paths to be removed pursuant to Chapter 57, Article IV (Bicycle Right of Way) of the Town Code which states that, “At any location at which a multi-use/shared path intersects with or is crossed by a public or private way or driveway with the exception of major intersections to be determined by the Town of Nantucket, bicyclists, pedestrians and other users of the paths shall have the right of way, and any person operating a motor vehicle shall stop and yield to such bicyclist, pedestrian or other user. and asked Chief Pittman how he is handling this. Chief Pittman said he feels there should be stop signs on bike paths at every intersection. Mr. Burns asked that this matter be added to a future agenda. Chair Gasbarro spoke in favor of speaking with the Town Manager to get Town Counsel’s opinion.

Mr. Burns asked about Milestone Road and Nobadeer Farm Road traffic and asked if there is officer control at the intersection. Chief Pittman said there is not and that traffic backups has been a common theme at many intersections around the island. Mr. Burns asked if this matter warrants to be placed on an agenda for discussion. Chair Gasbarro said he doesn’t see any need since it is already being reviewed by the NP&EDC. Mr. Burns confirmed that he is currently working with Mass DOT to move this forward.

V. Approval of minutes of July 20, 2023 at 10:30 AM.

Chief Pittman moved approval of the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Rowland; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

VI. Adjournment

Chief Pittman moved adjournment at 11:14 PM; seconded by Mr. Burns; by roll call vote: Mr. Burns – Yes; Mr. Sylvia – Yes; Chief Pittman – Yes; Mr. Rowland – Yes; Chair Gasbarro – Yes; so voted.

Approved the 21st day of September 2023.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY WORK GROUP
AUGUST 17, 2023 – 10:30 AM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- III. 1. Letter from Merrielou Symes; GIS plan and street view photo of 8 Nantucket Avenue
- III. 2. Emails from Bob Cole and Randy Ringer, re: speed limit on Tom Nevers Rd
- III. 3. Email thread re: 21 Lily St accessible space; GIS street view photo of driveway
- III. 4. Email from Leslie Mayer, re: Center St Sconset parking issue; photos
- III. 5. Email from Robert Kargman, re: no parking request at 8 Mill St; photos
- III. 6. Email thread re: parking on Easton St; GIS map of Land Bank property at 65-67 Easton St; H.5381
- III. 7. Email from Jeremy Bloomer, re: Garner St
- III. 8. Transmittal from Nantucket Engineering & Surveying, re: curb cut at 34 Easton St; curb cut application; GIS map; survey plan; aerial photo; street view photo
- V. Draft minutes of July 20, 2023