

**ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY
COMMITTEE
Posted Meeting of
February 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm
Held in Zoom only Format**

**MINUTES
FOR
REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Call to Order

Chairman Grieder opened the meeting at 4:05 pm. Attendees on Zoom: Nat Lowell, Phil Smith, Ed Gillum, Bill Grieder and Lee Saperstein. Allen Reinhard joined at 4:20, Rick Atherton joined at 4:48. Nat Lowell left at 4:54. Also in attendance was Tracy MacDonald, Town Real Estate Specialist who introduced Robert ("Bob") Bystrowski, Real Estate Specialist II who is now assisting Tracy.

Public Comment (items not on the agenda) none

Motion - acceptance of the December 17, 2024, minutes

Motion to accept made by Nat Lowell, second by Ed Gillum.

Accepted by vote of Nat Lowell, Phil Smith, Ed Gillum, Bill Grieder and Lee Saperstein.

Book on Public Ways in Nantucket

In the meeting, the team discussed the availability of a book on public ways in Nantucket County. They found out that the book is available for purchase on Amazon and are considering getting copies for the library. The team also discussed the full text of the book being available on the town's website. Furthermore, the book was identified as the primary source of inspiration for Edward's interest in the Roads and Ways committee. Lastly, the team discussed a typescript document titled "A History of Roads and Ways in Nantucket County" that is accessible on their website.

Rights of Ways Committee Update

Bill discussed the status of the Right of Ways Committee, specifically the need to update and reorganize the information on the Roads and Right of Way website. He shared that he had sent this information to the correct person but received a new directive to send it to someone else. Lee added some historical context to the discussion, emphasizing the importance of the DPW director and transportation planner's participation in the committee as non-voting ex-officio members.

Right Away Committee's Future Discussed

The committee discussed the future of the Roads and Right of Way Committee, with

Nat suggesting a reset and reboot to include an overall discussion of its future. Bill expressed concern over decisions being made without involving the committee. The committee agreed on the importance of reviewing processes, and the need to potentially save walking paths when paper roads are taken or conveyed.

Committee Direction and Road Challenges

The meeting involved discussions about the status of roads and the challenges of updating the town website. Bill suggested that they need to be brought into the loop regarding the direction of the committee, rather than being told what to do. Tracy clarified the overlap between different committees, including her own role in paper road situations and the need for pedestrian easements. She also mentioned the potential for overlap with the traffic safety committee. Nat reminisced about the committee's history and the progress made under Alan's leadership, particularly in terms of GPS and post location accuracy.

Traffic Safety Committee Clarification Discussion

Nat, Allen, Lee, Bill, and Edward discussed the Traffic Safety Committee and its role in managing encroachments and road improvements. Nat suggested that the committee's responsibilities could be clarified to avoid overlap with other groups. Lee mentioned that the committee had started with a list of potential road takings, which was later reduced. The group also discussed the case of Millbrook Road, where a neighbor had set up a speed trap barrier, and the agreement with the Quidnet Squam Association that Squam Road would not be improved beyond its current state.

Road Maintenance and Taking Discussion

Tracy discusses her ongoing list of road takings, including those driven by private homeowners and developers. Lee mentions a spreadsheet with road criteria, while Nat emphasizes the importance of focusing on significant roads like Appleton rather than less critical ones. Ed Gillum brings up Winn Street as a potential candidate for taking, which is already on the list and part of a larger bicycle path plan. Allen highlights Squam Road as an example of successful resident-driven road maintenance. The group agrees to have a more formal discussion on the topic, with Tracy suggesting that she could bring appropriate road-taking proposals to the board for input in the future.

Discussing Road Taking Process Challenges

The team discussed the process of road taking and the potential for public hearings. Tracy mentioned a meeting with Megan Trudel to further discuss the matter. The team also discussed two specific cases, Franklin Street and Stone Alley, with Stone Alley being a recent revision. The team agreed to support the process and present it to the select board or county commissioners. Nat mentioned that the Bracken plan was done after a controversy about a fence and a tree. The team also discussed the challenges of working during cold weather.

Quidnet Road Improvements and Bike Lanes

Nat proposed the formation of a committee to discuss specific issues like the status of the Quidnet Road and potential improvements to it. He emphasized the need for such discussions in the new era of electric bikes and bike lanes. Rick Atherton joined the meeting late and was briefed about the ongoing discussion on road restructuring. It was noted that Bob was already involved in numerous committees, as per the real estate specialist Tracy. Lee brought up an extensive plan for road improvements between C Street station and the sewer work and mentioned an experiment on Pleasant Street to make it one way, which has not been discussed publicly.

Upcoming Meeting and Ongoing Issues

The team discussed their upcoming meeting, scheduled for March 18th, which will also be conducted via Zoom. They agreed to send Bill agenda items for the meeting. Lee brought up two topics for discussion: an experiment on Pleasant Street and the ongoing issue with the railroad. Allen mentioned rocks obstructing the roadway on Eel Point Road. Phil shared that the Harbor Study Committee is close to having its first draft, which will involve the team. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn, and the team expressed gratitude for the participation of Bob and Tracy.

Next steps

- Tracy to discuss road takings and committee structure with Megan Trudel and circle back with Bill.
- Lee to send Tracy the latest version of the road takings spreadsheet.
- Tracy to provide an update on the Stone Alley taking process.
- Bill to follow up on obtaining copies of Fran Karttunen's book "A History of Roads and Ways in Nantucket County" for the library.
- Committee members should send Bill agenda items for the next meeting on March 18th.
- Phil to update the committee when the first draft from the Harbor Study Committee is ready for review.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Allan Reinhard and seconded by Ed Gillum.

Motion Adopted: Accepted by vote of Phil Smith, Ed Gillum, Bill Grieder Lee Saperstein, Rick Atherton and Allan Reinhard.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm