



Amesbury

Traffic and Transportation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2015

Start: 6:30 PM at Amesbury Transportation Center

Attendees: Eric Eby, Anne Ferguson, Lauren Tirone, Steve Buonomo, Craig Berard.

David Moriarty presented his concerns with the potholes and condition of Whitehall Road. He claims road is so bad, that vehicles must use the other lane, and sometimes have to stop to allow oncoming traffic to avoid potholes. Wants to know when the road will be fully repaved. The Committee referred him to the DPW and the Committee will also follow up with the DPW to let them know of the concerns with the roadway condition.

Residents presented their concerns with traffic problems on Clark Street at Market Street, and requested the street be made one-way or dead-end. Problems include vehicles losing traction on the hill in winter, having to back down, and trucks not being able to make the turn at the top of the hill from Clark onto Market. One-way up the hill would not relieve the problem with turning trucks. One-way down the hill could present problems with the gas station access at the bottom of the hill. Committee will look into the request and solicit input from police and fire, with a recommendation possible at the next meeting in April.

K. Sullivan presented her concerns with traffic on Main Street during school drop-off and pick-up times. Would like a police officer to direct traffic, as crossing guards are not doing a very good job. Committee members explained that crossing guards are not qualified to direct traffic, and there is not enough police manpower to station an officer at the school every morning. The resident was directed to take up her concern with the School Department, as they are responsible for the crossing guards and the traffic situation which is caused in part by charging several hundred dollars to ride the bus, which results in many parents driving their children to the school.

Bruce Kubik presented his concerns with the difficulty in turning from Hoyt Avenue and Merrill Avenue onto Route 110, and how this will become even worse with the proposed 240-unit Amesbury Heights apartment complex proposed for the south side of Route 110 just west of Hoyt Avenue. He is frustrated with what he feels is the inability of residents to have any input on the permitting of the project or the intersection improvement project at Route 110 and Route 150, through the local and state process. He would like changes at the signal to provide more gaps in traffic, such as prohibiting right turns on red from 150 to 110 westbound. Eric stated that based on a conversation with City Planner Nipun Jain, the project was approved by the Planning Board many years ago and has been granted extensions of their permits since that time. Lauren stated that she wrote a letter on behalf of the Police Department stating their concerns with the proposed driveway location. It is not known where the project stands with their state permits. Eric will contact the state to determine the status of both their driveway permit and intersection improvements, and will provide update to Lauren.

Jon Mooers presented his proposal for valet parking in front of 11 Elm Street for his new restaurant The Noshery, which he plans on opening in the next couple of months. The plan would be to reserve the two parking spaces in front of the restaurant as valet parking only during the peak hours of his business, and valets would park customer cars in the Water Street parking lot. The Committee was in favor of the proposal and unanimously approved a motion by Anne Ferguson, seconded by Steve Buonomo, to approve the request subject to approval by the City Council and Mayor. A license agreement would likely be needed, and Eric can provide a sample agreement that is used in Portsmouth. The agreement could stipulate that the use is permitted through the end of the year, with annual renewals.

Residents of Mill Street present to discuss proposed recommendation for on-street parking along north side of roadway in front of National Grid property. Eric presented the plan he prepared showing parallel parking along both sides of the street up to the bend in the road, at which point parking would be restricted to one side only, the side with no sidewalk, as this would allow for more parking. This plan has been presented to the DPW, who have agreed to paint the parking stalls when the weather improves. This also allows for parking for the businesses in the Ovedia building, which have very limited parking. On a motion by Anne and seconded by Lauren, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the recommended parking changes to Mill Street. Eric will contact DPW to let them know of the decision.

Jeff Gilbert presented his request for No Parking sign on Atlantic Avenue, at the entrance to the right of way for his house. Committee voted 5-0 on motion by Anne, seconded by Eric, to continue the request to the next meeting to allow time to visit the site and solicit input from fire and police departments.

Steve Stanganelli present to discuss No Trucks signs on Goss Avenue and Amidon Avenue. Wants to know whether the signs are enforceable and, if not, what can be done to make them enforceable or remove them. Eric and Lauren explained that the signs are not enforceable as they were installed without state approval. In the past, when the signs were installed, the town and the police were possibly not aware that state approval was needed. There is certain criterion that must be met for the state to approve a truck exclusion route, among them that trucks must be more than 5-8 percent of the daily traffic on the roadway. It is not likely that these streets would meet the minimum truck volumes. The Committee voted 5-0, on a motion by Anne, seconded by Lauren, to request Rob Desmarais from the DPW to attend the next meeting to discuss these illegal signs and other signs that have been identified in previous meetings as needing changing that have not yet been done. Anne also will write letter to Industrial Park businesses asking them to inform their truck drivers not to use these residential streets and to direct their trucks to I-95 in Salisbury.

Traffic Ordinances document. Eric to get PDF document converted to Word document so that it can be edited and updated. Anne to request permission from City Council to have clerk's office work on updating document with past meeting minute decisions.

Next meetings will be April 20, June 1 2015.

Motion to adjourn by Anne, seconded by Lauren at 8:50. Motion passed 5-0.