



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

ROADS & BYWAYS

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Committee Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

Call to order:

A quarterly meeting of the Roads and Byways Committee was called to order at 4:05 PM, on February 25, 2021 by Brian Packish, Chairman.

Committee Members & Town of Oak Bluffs Employees Present:

Brian Packish, Selectman/Chairman

Robert Whritenour, Town Administrator

Erik Blake, Police Chief

Richard Combra, Highway Department, Superintendent

Bridget Palmieri, Administrative Assistant

Fire & EMS Representative

Guests in Attendance/Interested Parties:

Amy Billings, Parks & Recreation, Chairman

Maura McGroarty

Business:

Agenda Item #1:

- Parking spaces on Circuit Ave. at the end of Hartford Park, on Massasoit Ave.

Exhibits:

1. Image of example of white lines at the end of Niantic Park on Wamsutta Ave.
2. Image of new bike pad at the end of Hartford Park, on Massasoit Ave.

Discussion:

Amy Billings began by presenting 2 images. The first (see exhibit 1) is an example of the white lines at the end of Niantic Park on Wamsutta Ave. She would like to have them added to the area next to where they just put in the new bike pad on Hartford Park, on Massasoit Avenue. The image she took today (see exhibit 2) has a vehicle about where she would like to start the parking. She continued, however people park at least two more cars behind that which comes out onto Circuit Ave and blocks the view of the bike pad where we want people to park their bikes and walk into town. So, it's really two small car spaces on the park side to white out and put a "do not park here", from here back to the corner on Massasoit Ave. It is not marked right now. Richard Combra said he has no problem with this and confirmed that marked white lines do indicate no parking, but we could also put a sign something to the effect of "No parking here back to corner". Chief Erik Blake said there should be no parking 15 Ft. from the corner anyway (at a minimum), so that will work well.

Motion:

A motion to present to the Board of Selectmen to add a no parking area at the beginning of Massasoit Avenue was made by Chief Erik Blake. The motion was seconded by Richard Combra.

Roll Call Vote:

Erik Blake - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Robert Whritenour - Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Agenda Item #2:

- The fork at Pocasset Ave. and Tuckernuck Ave.

Discussion:

Brian Packish began that this is a request from Erik Albert, who was not on the call. The area for discussion is on Niantic Park, back from Waban Park headed towards the Pocasset Ave. intersection. He continued, we have talked about this spot quite a bit in the past. Erik Albert reports he has been seeing dangerous situations there, such as very high speeds, blind corners, etc. and would like for it to be reviewed. Brian Packish continued, he is not sure what else can be done here, that maybe Richard Combra could take a look at it. Perhaps, additional signage could be added or a speed notification. He said speed bumps historically have become more of a nuisance to residents. Richard Combra suggested he and Chief Erik Blake go out and take a look and see if there are any measures they can take, maybe warning signage or painted lines, something that is not a major change, but would help. Brian Packish confirmed Erik Albert is currently out of town. Maura McGroarty commented that it gets very narrow at Tuckernuck Ave. and it barely looks wide enough for two cars to pass by. Amy Billings added that landscaping is the issue there because it comes out into the roadway, especially when in bloom. Brian Packish said lets maybe start with a line or signage and see if that is helpful and watch it over the summer. We will discuss with Erik Albert when he is back. If this solution does not work, possible next steps would be a discussion of widening the road. Amy Billings commented that the roads are not laid out well in that area and she is not sure how much the road can be widened, that it is definitely an issue of slowing traffic down. Brian Packish agreed and said it may be worth surveying some of the roads back there and if that comes to fruition it may be about stretching and extending the back corner a bit.

Motion:

No motion to approve or deny the request was made. Follow up will be required.

Additional Discussion:

Richard Combra wanted to discuss the process moving forward regarding requests. Brian Packish confirmed, all agenda requests should filter through Bridget Palmieri, with a copy to Brian Packish. If it is not pressing, we will wait for a few requests to come in before setting up a meeting. Brian Packish commented that some of the issues have been brought up in selectmen's meetings and it may be slow moving into summer, but we will probably set a quick future meeting to approve the minutes.

Chief Erik Blake mentioned that at some point we need to discuss North Bluffs Parking and how we are going to handle that this Summer, as Town Hall is being built in that parking lot. He confirmed the stickers get renewed April 1 through Memorial Day and confirmed every individual truck gets a sticker (Cost is approximately \$500-\$600 each).

Motion:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian Packish. The motion was seconded by Richard Combra.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Brian Packish - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Erik Blake - Aye

Robert Whritenour - Aye

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.