



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS

ROADS & BYWAYS

P.O. BOX 1526

OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557

Phone: 508-693-0343 Fax: 508-696-6035

Committee Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2021 at 4:00PM

Call to order:

A quarterly meeting of the Roads and Byways Committee was called to order at 4:02PM, on June 30, 2021 by Brian Packish, Chairman.

Committee Members & Town of Oak Bluffs Employees/Representatives Present:

Brian Packish, Board of Selectmen/Chairman

Erik Blake, Police Chief

Richard Combra, Highway Department, Superintendent

Nelson Wirtz, Fire Chief

Ewell Hopkins, Representing Planning Board

Gail Barmakian, Representing Board of Selectmen

Bridget Palmieri, Administrative Assistant

Guests in attendance/Interested Parties:

Craig Dripps, Michael Lehr, Janet Holladay, Susie Alex,

Barbara Baskin - East Chop Association, Bill Veno - MVC, Maura McGroarty,

John Bouchard - MassDOT, Pamela Hazner - MassDOT, John Tamburini - GPI, John Osorio – GPI

Business:

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes:

Discussion:

Brian Packish began by asking if Richard Combra and Erik Blake had a chance to read the meeting minutes from 4.26.21, to which they both responded yes.

Motion:

The motion to approve the April 26, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Richard Combra. The motion was seconded by Erik Blake.

Roll Call Vote:

Both committee members voted to approve the motion.

Erik Blake - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Brian Packish - Abstain

Ewell Hopkins - Abstain

Agenda Item #2:

79 Ocean Ave – Sign & Crosswalk Request (Michael Lehr)

Discussion:

Michael Lehr is requesting a stop sign be added to the end of Ocean Ave., where it stops at Seaview Ave. In addition, he is requesting a crosswalk be added across Ocean Ave. or across Seaview Ave.

Brian Packish remarked that based on the photo provided, there seems to have been a stop sign at some point and it seems to be missing. Erik Blake agreed and said he did a site visit and that it would be smart to add a stop sign at the end of Ocean Ave. at Seaview Ave.

Erik Blake added that the crosswalk would be best across Ocean Ave. versus Seaview Ave. (a state road). Brian Packish agreed.

Richard Combra also agreed that there should be a stop sign at Ocean Ave and there probably was one at some point and he will take care of putting one back up (sign replacement).

Regarding the crosswalk, Brian Packish said this issue would be revisited at a later time.

Action: OB Highway Department to put up a Stop sign on Ocean Ave. at Seaview Ave.

Agenda Item #3:

55 Pennacook Ave – Signage Request (Janet Holladay)

Discussion:

Janet Holladay would like “No Parking” lines added on the street across from her driveway in order to be able to pull in and out of her driveway. Additionally, she is concerned with a 150 year old Oak tree in her driveway being protected.

Erik Blake began that he did a site visit and also drove the side streets and noticed how many no parking lines have been added (approx..40-50) and if someone can park on their property they are. He felt if it is hindering her getting in and out of her driveway, we should try and accommodate the request. Richard Combra agreed, as the road is very narrow and the road was built when there were less cars on the roads. Richard Combra added he has a tree company doing some trimming and would be happy to talk to Janet Holliday about doing work to the tree.

Motion:

The motion to recommend this request to the Board of Selectmen was made by Ewell Hopkins, to approve a no parking designation as such so Janet Holladay can have easy access in and out of her property with a vehicle. The motion was seconded by Erik Blake.

Roll Call Vote:

All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Erik Blake - Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Ewell Hopkins - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Agenda Item #4:

23 Uncas Ave – Sign Request (Susie Alex)

Discussion:

Susie Alex is requesting a “No parking either side to corner” sign for the end of Uncas Ave. at Pocasset Ave., so she can access her driveway.

Richard Combra began by saying it would not be an issue to accommodate this request. He believes there is a certain distance from an intersection that you are not supposed to park, at least 10 feet, so cars can make a turn, so it is keeping with standard traffic policies.

Brian Packish commented that in order for select people to approve this request it should be consistent with what is already been established at the end of the street, near the bank. Richard Combra agreed.

Motion:

The motion to recommend this request to the Board of Selectmen was made by Richard Combra, to install no parking here back to corner at the intersection of Uncas Ave. and Pocasset Ave. The motion was seconded by Erik Blake.

Roll Call Vote:

All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Erik Blake - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Ewell Hopkins - Aye

Agenda Item #5:

Brewster Ave – Sign Request (Craig Dripps)

Discussion:

Craig Dripps is President of the East Chop Association and is acting on behalf of the community. He is concerned about East Chop Drive and how narrow the road is and is requesting cautionary signage at the barrier (something like caution, congested area, be alert etc.) and along Brewster Ave. at the crest of the hill coming the other way.

Richard Combra began that he thinks it a fine idea and that it is a congested area, especially this time of year, with a lot of children walking around. We have caution, slow and children signs that could be put up.

Motion:

The motion to recommend this request to the Board of Selectmen was made by Richard Combra, to install two caution signs at East Chop Drive and Brewster and on Brewster coming the other way. The motion was seconded by Erik Blake.

Roll Call Vote:

All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Erik Blake - Aye

Richard Combra - Aye

Ewell Hopkins - Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Nelson Wirtz- Aye

Agenda Item #6:

John Wesley Ave – Parking Expansion (Craig Dripps)

Discussion:

Craig Dripps is requesting a discussion and site visit to happen at a later point (Winter perhaps) regarding John Wesley Ave. He continued, a while back the association created perpendicular parking for three (3) vehicles on John Wesley Ave and would like to expand the space to accommodate eight (8) vehicles, which would reduce the congestion.

Brian Packish began that this seems to be a larger scale project. Richard Combra added he would like to do a site visit, possibly in October and put a plan together and move forward over the Winter.

Discussion continued regarding a survey that was done by George Sourati for East Chop Association. Craig Dripps will look into it further.

Action: Committee will revisit this request in the Fall, as this is a larger scale point of conversation to explore.

Agenda Item #7:

DOT SUP Plan/Intersection Discussion (Gail Barmakian)

Discussion:

Brian Packish began that this agenda item was requested by Gail Barmakian and that he also had an opportunity to speak with MassDOT as well. Gail Barmakian suggested MassDOT present plans to the committee for the intersections at the corner of Temahigan Ave. and Eastville Ave. and Eastville Ave. at County Road.

Gail Barmakian said regarding plans for the intersection at the corner of Temahigan Ave. and Eastville Ave. it shows that it is to be a three way stop and there is also a bump out on Temahigan Ave. and Eastville Ave. Brian Packish said he had spoken to John Bouchard and Pamela Hazner from MassDOT yesterday. He voiced that the concern is it is strange place for a three way, so clarification would be helpful.

John Osorio of GPI screen shared the plans with the committee. Brian Packish confirmed with John Osorio that no new stop signs would be added. Gail Barmakian confirmed with John Osorio that the bump outs are intended to slow speeds down.

Discussion moved on to the intersection of Eastville Ave. at County Road. John Osorio commented it is an odd "Y" configuration shaped intersection and the intent is to realign it to a standard T- intersection. Both Brian Packish and Erik Blake agreed this would be an improvement. John Osorio confirmed that at the intersections they added wayfinding signs and streetscape elements (benches, plantings etc) where they could, per the town's request.

Gail Barmakian brought up concerns regarding the site lines and the accommodations for emergency vehicles. John Osorio confirmed the plan will accommodate the emergency vehicles better then the current design. Nelson Wirtz agreed that this plan is more improved and allows more room for vehicles to pull over for emergency vehicles coming down County Road from the fire station. Gail Barmakian asked about any plans for this to become a three way stop, to which John Osorio confirmed this will not become one.

Motion:

The motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen was made by Ewell Hopkins, the plan as presented by MassDOT. The motion was seconded by Nelson Wirtz.

All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Ewell Hopkins - Aye

Erik Blake - Aye

Nelson Wirtz- Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Agenda Item #7:

Committee Update

Ewell Hopkins asked if it is the Roads and Byways Committee that would put together a priority list of unpaved roads that should be paved. Brian Packish responded it is not typically part of the work load of the committee.

Motion:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Erik Blake. The motion was seconded by Nelson Wirtz.

Roll Call Vote:

All committee members voted to approve the motion.

Ewell Hopkins- Aye

Erik Blake - Aye

Nelson Wirtz - Aye

Brian Packish - Aye

Meeting was adjourned at 5:11pm.