

Beach Parking Ad-hoc Committee

Organizational Meeting

February 23, 2017

Minutes

6:00

Attendance: Chris Osterrieder, Betsy Smith, Rachel Phipps, Mathew Eddy, Gerry Haviland, Susan Lee

1. Introductions and Purpose. Staff reviewed the charge to the committee, focused primarily on coming up with an improved management plan for parking at the Beach.
2. Review of the Maine Traffic Resources RFP. The committee reviewed the RFP. In general, they began to feel that awarding the work would be premature, particularly given the first Sentence in task 1, which raised concerns, as did committee members, about starting the study prior to summer.
3. Decision: Agree to Interview the Present Respondent or re-advertise. After further discussion, the committee agreed to neither re-advertise or select the lone respondent. The sense of the committee, based on a review of aerial photos, showed that the real issues are with lack of signage or enforcement at critical corners, intersections, and narrow right of way paths, as well as with driveways. Too many parkers in too small of an area appears to be the real issue. Further, the photos showed that there do exist other right of way parking spaces in the neighborhood that are not being used, even in the busiest days. If enforcement were increased, cars would simply move to other right of ways that have available parking on them, simply further from the Beach. Again, appropriate signage could direct parkers to the other available on-street areas would be useful.

As always, there is a concern for cause and effect. What will we hear from other beach neighborhoods? However, the residents on the committee felt that this was a reasonable solution that might not require immediate study and could be done so at reasonable cost. In this context, the committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen the following action plan and will meet again on March 23 (changed to the 30th) at 4:30 (not 5:30).

1. We need to be certain of the legal passage of existing sign ordinances and take any appropriate action if necessary (the Board of Selectmen have this capacity, no Town Meeting is necessary);
2. We want to develop a sign approach that does not put a sign at every driveway—the thought was placing signs at entrances to the neighborhood and at some key locations (reminder that the law says to maintain certain distances from driveways or intersections).
3. The program will need to be started with warnings; it is clear from some of the aerials and the folks living there that a lot of people simply don't know the rules and would probably not have a problem with a slightly longer walk.
4. We need to consider the monetary costs of increased enforcement and also with equal enforcement in other areas of the community. The sense of the bike patrol use last year among

committee members was that they were sufficient, sympathetic, but not empowered to take action.

5. We may want to consider modernizing the ticketing devices, switching to an electronic system?
6. We would like to do a more thorough count of users and understand where they come from, how long they stay? With this, we would also propose working with the life guards to count people and also look at some beach carrying capacity rates. The question here was how much capacity the beach can handle and how would that relate to the supply and demand of parking spaces. This does go beyond some of the resident's immediate concerns, but most felt quantifying the issue made sense.
7. Similarly, it would be good to hold an informational meeting for beach property owners much like we have done in other neighborhoods. The purpose would be to search for other ideas, do some information sharing, and generally identify this notion of acceptable quality of life. We would want to get some of the signs up and get into the season so that both year round and seasonal residents could attend.
8. Two other actions noted for implementation were the increased marketing for and use of the Trolley and increased placement of bike racks or some like system along the walls.
9. We would begin some of these counts in June, and continue them through the peak period.

In the end, with this information, we can then decide whether a consultant is necessary and would have specific data items for that individual to investigate.

4. Adjourn