

**JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 19, 2016**

**I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:00 PM by Chairman Thomas P. Tighe.**

**II. The following members were present:**

Thomas Tighe, Chairman  
Mary E. Meagher, Vice-Chairman  
David Cain  
Timothy Yentsch  
Vincent Moretti  
Melissa Mastrostefano  
William Munger

Also present:

Police Chief Edward Mello  
Kim Devlin, Clerk

**III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES**

**A) April 21, 2016 (regular meeting)**

Motion was made by Member Cain, seconded by Member Munger to accept the March 17, 2016 minutes. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**IV. OPEN FORUM**

**A) Scheduled to Address**

There were no Scheduled Requests to Address.

**B) Non-Scheduled to Address**

Evelyn Dawson addressed the Committee regarding speeding on Southwest Avenue. She stated that people drive at 45-50 MPH and it is scary. The speed traps are great but she is wondering if more can be done.

Chief Mello stated he will address the issue under New Business.

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A) Amendment of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article IV. Stopping, Standing and Parking, Sec. 70-87 Prohibited or Restricted Parking on Specified Streets and Sec. 70-89 parking at Jamestown Shores Beach; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Tighe asked for a motion to forward the proposed parking restrictions to the Town Council.

Member Yentsch moved that the proposed report be amended to include recommendation for single side parking on Seaside Drive from Dory Street to Capstan Street on the eastern side. Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded.

A discussion ensued.

So voted; (7 ayes, 0 nays).

Chairman Cain asked Chief Mello for clarification on the width of Seaside Drive, stating that the map shows the width as being 50 feet.

Chief Mello stated, according to the engineer, that is correct. The asphalt width is probably 24 feet, but the town property is 50'.

Executive Director Chief Mello stated that one of the challenges with the motion for parking on Seaside Drive is that the signs in the south shores don't make sense. We will face a challenge informing residents of parking restrictions. Now, with the motion for Seaside Drive allowing parking on the west side, depending on what section of the street you are on there is no parking on both sides. It is either going to take a lot more signs or some consistency.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that the parking south of the bridge allows for parking on the east side, then there is a section of no parking, and then parking is allowed on the west side. Vice-Chairman Meagher believes there is enough of a distance between the sections for the regulation to not be confusing.

Chief Mello stated that this will require additional signage and he wants committee to be aware that additional signage is not always received well.

Member Munger stated that he is uneasy pushing forward with regulations the citizens are not happy with.

Member Munger moved to table the whole thing until we have support from the neighborhood. Member Moretti seconded.

Member Moretti stated he feels these restrictions are fraught with issues that need to be considered further.

Vice-Chairman Meagher allowing parking on one side is less of a shotgun approach and consistent with the south shores. If we can provide some parking it will be a less draconian approach.

A discussion ensued.

So voted; (3 ayes, 4 nays). The motion was not approved.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to amend the recommendation to include no parking on the even side of Capstan Street and Frigate Street, with an overnight parking permit required, Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; (6 ayes, 1 nays).

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to forward this to the Town Council, as amended, Member Cain seconded So voted; (7 ayes, 0 nays).

5b- Chairman Tighe reads the proposed ordinance change.

Chief Mello stated the only change is the underlined section, a time restriction that clarifies that trucks allowed between 5am and 3pm which is a window for deliveries at McQuades.

Andy Nota, Town Administrator, stated that he has been working with Chief Mello and McQuades representation, Christian Infantolino, and he feels that this is a good compromise that satisfies both parties. Town Administrator Nota stated that he is hoping the committee will give this amendment consideration and send it to the Town Council.

A discussion ensued.

Member Moretti moved to change the amendment to strike “southern” and add “Windsor.” Member Yentsch seconded. So voted; (7 ayes, 0 nays).

**B) Amendment of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III. Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 70-55 Restrictions on Certain Streets – Columbia Avenue; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Tighe reads the proposed ordinance (Section 70-55).

Chief Mello stated the only change is the underlined section, which is a time restriction that clarifies that trucks are allowed between 5am and 3pm, which is a window for deliveries at McQuades.

Andy Nota, Town Administrator, stated that he has been working with Chief Mello and McQuades representation, Christian Infantolino. He feels this is a good compromise that satisfies both parties and he is hoping the committee will give this amendment consideration and send it to the Town Council.

A discussion ensued.

Member Moretti moved to change the amendment to strike “southern” and add “Windsor;” Member Yentsch. So voted; (7 ayes, 0 nays).

**C) Conanicus Avenue Crosswalk; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

**1) Letter of Police Chief Mello to RI State Traffic Commission**

Chairman Tighe asked Chief Mello if he has heard back from the State Traffic Commission.

Chief Mello stated that he has not.

Chairman Tighe continued the item to the next meeting.

**D) Amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles Sec. 70-55 Restrictions on Certain Streets – Narragansett Avenue - in front of the “Theatre”: Request of Elena McCarthy; review and discussion and/or potential action and or vote (continued from 3/18/2016)**

Ms. McCarthy was not present.

Chairman Tighe asked the Clerk to notify Ms. McCarthy in writing that the item will be continued one more time at the next Traffic Meeting.

Chairman Cain moved to continue the meeting until next month, Member Moretti seconded. So voted; 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Feasibility of making the downtown Village area golf cart friendly; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chairman Tighe stated that he not sure that this is our (Traffic Committee) issue. If the town wants to take this up and come back to us with it, that is fine, but Chairman Tighe believes this goes beyond the (Traffic) Committee’s purview.

William Munger presented his idea to the committee. He has employees in full size vehicles going back and forth from the commissary (on Narragansett Avenue) and the marina. If his employees could drive golf carts then it would take up less parking in the village.

Chairman Cain asked if these golf carts would be registered and approved to be driven on the roads.

Member Munger stated yes, but Chief Mello can fill us in on that.

Member Moretti asked Chief Mello if golf carts were permitted on the roads.

Chief Mello stated, no, that golf carts are actually prohibited in Rhode Island, except for Prudence Island. It would take a legislation change at the State level for golf carts to be permitted in Jamestown.

**B) Letter of Mark W. Swistak re: speed of traffic on Conanicus Avenue from the Bay Voyage to the Police Station; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote**

Chief Mello stated he has had a number of conversations with Mr. Swistak and he would like to have a speed sign installed on Conanicus Avenue, similar to the one on North road.

Chief Mello stated that the committee has discussed the potential of obtaining additional signs and would like the committee to determine the priority of the proposed locations, which Chief Mello feels would benefit from the addition of speed signs.

The first location proposed by Chief Mello is on Conanicus Avenue near the golf course. The second proposed location is on Southwest Avenue. The third proposed location is on Conanicus Avenue for northbound traffic in the area of Friendship Street. The fourth proposed location is Beavertail Road just prior to Mackerel Cove area, which would be challenging to find a place for it, but it could be possible. Speeds going through Mackerel Cove are in the 40's and speed limit is 25.

If you are in agreement with the addition of signs, keep in mind they take time to obtain and to gain permission from DOT (Department of Transportation) and they take time to install.

Chief Mello stated the signs cost about \$2500 each and are virtually maintenance free. They have solar panels and are very effective.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that she supports signs in all of the locations, but the first two seem easily applicable and maybe we could have you do research on other two locations.

Member Moretti moved to recommend Chief Mello move forward, Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; (7 ayes, 0 nays).

Chief Mello asked the committee if this is something they are comfortable moving forward with without council approval.

The committee consensus was yes, they are comfortable moving forward without council approval.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Munger and seconded by Committee Member Yentsch to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin  
Clerk