

Selectmen's Meeting

July 12, 2012

1:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B. Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were: Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman and Margaret Serpa. Also present for the meeting were: Lenny Jason, Zoning Inspector and Police Chief Tony Bettencourt.

At 1:00 pm Mr. Donaroma opened the meeting and stated that they were having this meeting to address issues with the Vineyard Valet. The Board had received one piece of correspondence from an abutter to the parking lot, Mr. Howie Powers. He recognized Mr. Andrew Fligor, owner of Vineyard Valet. Also present was Attorney Sean Murphy as representation for Mr. Fligor.

Mr. Fligor stated that he had talked to Mr. Powers and he understands his issues. They have known each other for a long time. He had ordered new lights that would be shielded down and had completely shut off the one that was shining into Mr. Powers' window until it can be replaced with one of the new ones to shine down only.

Ms. Serpa stated that all sounded good. Her original concern was the employees walking up and down the street with signs and knocking on car windows.

Atty. Murphy stated that he had spoken with Ms. Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator, about the issue and they had stopped the hawking in the streets. They would like to have a sign that they can wheel out for the evenings so that people know they are there.

Mr. Fligor stated that it was a challenge to get the word out that they were a public service and not just for the Boathouse which they are in front of. It was also a challenge with people using the loading zone. They were focusing on the Atlantic loading zone this summer and were not using the Chesca's spot.

Mr. Jason asked about advertising through the restaurants, for example when someone called to make a reservation they could mention that the service was available.

Mr. Donaroma suggested going to the Board of Trade.

Ms. Serpa stated that there have been complaints in the past of employees going up the one way streets the wrong way to get to the lot.

Mr. Murphy replied that there was a previous owner. Mr. Fligor had just taken over the business this year.

Mr. Fligor expressed that safety was his number one priority. He has the employees sign a contract that has rules and regulations that if not followed can mean immediate termination. It includes a list of procedures in taking the car over from the customer and no cell phone use period.

Chief Bettencourt stated that he liked what he was hearing. He stated that there had been no complaints about people going the wrong way this year. He had a signage suggestion of a movable orange sign post, like they have for voting, to put in the middle of the entrance to the lot on the bottom of Main St. with an arrow to the loading zone that says "Valet Parking" and an arrow pointing to the left saying "Through Traffic".

Mr. Fligor loved the idea but asked if the sign could say "Public Valet Parking" instead so the public would know it wasn't a private service.

Chief Bettencourt stated that he thinks the sign would help with the traffic issues and would encourage people to park closer to the sidewalk. He would like Mr. Fligor to encourage customers to pull to the front of the loading zone.

Mr. Fligor asked about getting permission for the sign.

Mr. Jason stated it would be a traffic sign and not require approval of the sign committee.

Ms. Serpa suggested that they try the sign and meet again to review how it was going in the end of August.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the complaints from the neighborhood are serious. He feels they are going in the right direction. The lot is in a residential area.

Mr. Fligor stated that the lot had always been a commercial lot.

Mr. Jason stated that it was a gray area.

Ms. Serpa repeated that they will revisit the subject in the end of August and address any additional complaints that may arise.

Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn at 1:25 PM. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman

Margaret E. Serpa

Arthur Smadbeck
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant

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