

Edgartown Planning Board Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

A regular meeting of the Edgartown Planning Board was scheduled for Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 5:30 PM at the Edgartown Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts.

PRESENT: Fred Mascolo (Chair), Michael McCourt, Lucy Morrison, Glen Searle, James Cisek (Alternate)

ABSENT: Scott Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, and a quorum was declared.

SITE VISITS

No site visits were scheduled.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

PUBLIC DISCUSSION – CHASE AND PINEHURST ROADS

Mr. Mascolo and Mr. Searle recused themselves from the board, as they reside in the immediate area.

Mr. McCourt presided as Chair Pro Temp.

Mr. McCourt invited Ms. Katrina Nevin (Chase Road) to present:

Ms. Nevin reiterated the points made previously:

- The area of concern: Chase Road, Pinehurst Road, Hannah's Way
- The concerns: Excessive traffic, speed of traffic, through truck traffic.
- Potential solutions:
 - o Change speed of traffic to 15 MPH
 - o Place "No Through Traffic" signs
 - o Place speed bumps or tabled crossings
 - o Impose "Timed Turn" restrictions at Upper Main Street entrance to Pinehurst Road
- For West Tisbury / Edgartown Road:
 - o Crosswalk at Chase Road
 - o Move 20mph zone further west towards Cottle's.
 - o Reflective posts on center line at Chase Road intersection

Mr. McCourt: After hearing your presentation, we concluded that we can and need to do some things in the short-term, and look at the big picture over the longer run, proposing solutions at Town Meeting as we get feedback from residents and Town Departments.

Mr. McCourt recognized Edgartown Police Chief Bruce McNamee:

Chief: I spent time observing traffic along the roads in questions, and at the intersections at each end. No violations were observed at the intersection. The speed on Chase Road is posted at 30 MPH, which seems too fast for the neighborhood; however, that's the speed limit. I don't know if police patrols can fix this;

Ms. Nevin: What about a 'radar trailer'?

Chief: It's possible to place one there, at least temporarily. That would be require additional space; on such a narrow street, it would reduce the travel area significantly. Usually, these are put out for a week or two at a time, and then speed reinforced by radar.

Chief: one note: a lot of cars with out-of-state plates were seen... given that many road users are from elsewhere, it makes it difficult to educate and enforce drivers as to speed rules.

Mr. Mascolo: You can use my driveway anytime you want to monitor speeds; especially between 4 PM and 6 PM, it seems that speeds and volumes are higher.

Chief: Especially coming from Morning Glory, one is used to travelling at a higher speed, and they carry that onto the side-streets.

Mr. Searle: Trucks entering from Edg/WT road onto Chase often take the corners too fast, and too wide. In addition, Al's Package delivery trucks use the road.

McCourt: The main reason trucks use that route is because it is a shortcut. What would it take for towns to ban trucks on that road?

Mr. Hagerty: It would take a significant process to make the road safer – making the road one way, adding a sidewalk, reducing speed limits, etc. Something less extreme might be to ask the MVC to come in, conduct a traffic study, and provide suggestions. I would suggest that we bring in professionals to conduct a study; we also have to determine the scope: what are we trying to do? For five folks who object to the speed and volume, five others will speak in favor of leaving things the way it is.

McCourt: what is involved with conducting a traffic study?

Mr. Hagerty reviewed some options that could be pursued; many would require extensive legislative work, with some requiring a petition to the state legislature.

Mr. Bruce Nevin: I think that if the speed were reduced, it would help.

McCourt: If the study comes back that says the speed needs to be reduced – what do we need to make that happen?

Chief: The commission study that we had was pretty quick, and provided recommendations.

There was some discussion related to the process of reducing speeds.

Mr. Hagerty: We have to determine our goals: are we trying to reduce traffic volume? Or speed? Or....?

Ms. Nevin: I want to make the road safer. That may involve any multiple of those options; but any study should involve Pinehurst, Chase and Hannah's way.

What about the addition of 'share the road' signs, or 'beware of pedestrians' options?

The board generally agreed to request a traffic study for the affected area.

There was some discussion related to speed on Edgartown / West Tisbury Road, and the effectiveness of the electronic 'radar' signs.

Chief: The hand-made signs are likely more effective than anything that the state or the town could put into place.

It was noted that street signs posted along Pinehurst and Chase roads do not accurately indicate the start and end points of each street where they intersect.

There was some discussion related to notification of residents along the street as to the discussion at hand.

Mr. Hagerty made note of the Department reports, which are made available on the Town's website.

There was some discussion related to less conspicuous methods of monitoring traffic speeds and volume.

Mr. McCourt: I think we've started the conversation related to raising awareness. A traffic study that counts traffic volume, monitors speed, and also counts pedestrian travel and traffic; and provides recommendations is the next step. Peak hours should be considered.

It was noted that, because of the posted speed limit, GPS directs travelers along the route. If the speed limit is reduced, then GPS might redirect travelers back to the main routes instead.

Mr. Hagerty: The level of complexity of the overall traffic study may increase the turnaround time for results;

if we are talking about turning something around quickly, then we have to limit the scope.

Mr. Finn reported that he would contact the MV Commission, and determine an appropriate scope of study in order to turn around results in an appropriate time. Mr. Finn will also work with Ms. Nevin to return a response in time for a town meeting warrant article.

BOARD REVIEW: DRI CHECKLIST VERSION 14 (DRAFT)

Mr. Finn presented the board with a draft of version 14 of the DRI Checklist, as proposed by the MV Commission, as well as a summary of proposed changes, and requested board comment and feedback.

Mr. Finn attended a second “listening session” related to the DRI Checklist, and reported some specifics.

Mr. Mascolo spoke to his frustration with the recent review process for Meetinghouse Way, and general dissatisfaction with the proposed changes that may require more projects to be referred.

Mr. Jim Joyce spoke in agreement with Mr. Mascolo, and relayed some of the process by which the project was reviewed.

There was some discussion related to the DRI checklist; Mr. Joyce asked for something in writing, and guidance as the DRI Checklist was reviewed.

Mr. Cisek suggested that a letter could be prepared to be sent to the Commission in response for the DRI checklist.

Mr. McCourt: I believe the checklist is appropriate as it is, and that these changes are more than is warranted.

Mr. Searle: I believe that a letter should be written to the commission to address their concerns.

Mr. Joyce: if there are items in the new DRI that you would like to be specifically dropped or modified, let me know – put them in writing, and I will take them to the commission.

Ms. Morrison: I’m in a bit of a delicate situation as the commission is my employer. Any letter that is to be sent, I will likely abstain from signing it.

Mr. McCourt: we would like to get more help from the commission, particularly with special projects – such as the traffic study that we just spoke about.

Mr. Mascolo: a large frustration is when we are in favor of a specific project, but the project is ‘shot down’ by the commission. Different towns have different priorities and what is important and acceptable in Edgartown may not be so for Chilmark; the reverse is also true. Regarding the Meetinghouse Way subdivision – it’s an unprecedented ‘give’ to the town, and it’s very frustrating that it was shot down.

Mr. Mascolo suggested that the board meet with other town boards to discuss the matter.

Ms. Morrison stated that West Tisbury’s planning board would be discussing the DRI checklist at their regular meeting on October 7.

There was further discussion related to the historic role of the MV Commission, and the current trend towards ‘more regulation’. There was also discussion as to the scope of authority of the Commission, and its ability to regulate even beyond the law.

There was some discussion related to the reasons behind the changes as proposed.

A draft letter was presented and briefly reviewed. Mr. Mascolo asked Mr. Finn to conduct a second review of the DRI revision proposal in order to insure that the board’s opinions are accurately expressed.

It was MOVED by McCourt – SECONDED by Searle

To authorize the chair to sign a letter to the Commission on behalf of the board, upon review and revision.

VOTED: 4, 0, 1 (MORRISON).

OTHER BUSINESS / PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jim Joyce spoke about concerns related to construction during specific times during the day, and (in particular) construction on projects in the R5 district. There was some discussion related to the matter, with some discussion about potential resolution. No action was taken.

ADMINISTRATIVE

MVC Update

Mr. Finn noted that the Meetinghouse Way Subdivision would come before the MV Commission no sooner than as amended. A vote by the full commission is not yet scheduled.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

It was MOVED by Morrison SECONDED by Searle

To approve the minutes of September 17, 2019, as presented.

VOTED: 5, 0, 0.

REVIEW AND SIGN PAYROLL (October 1, 2019)

Payroll sheet was reviewed and signed.

OTHER CRITICAL BUSINESS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE

No other business was presented.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings were tentatively scheduled for

- October 15;
- November 5, 19; and
- December 3, 17;

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Searle, SECONDED by McCourt

To Adjourn.

VOTED: 4, 0, 0.


The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:16 PM.

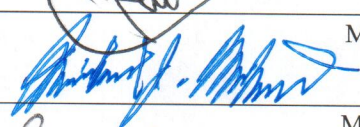
Respectfully submitted,

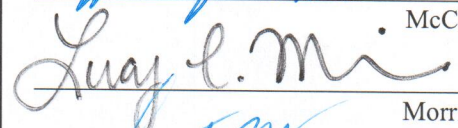
Douglas Finn, Administrative Assistant

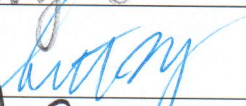
APPROVED by vote of Planning Board
at a regular meeting, held on

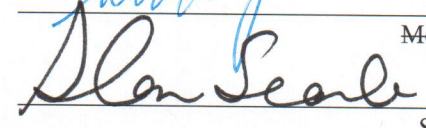
October 29, 2019
(Date of vote)


Mascolo


McCourt


Morrison


Morgan


Searle

Cisek (alternate)