

Town and County of Nantucket
ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Posted Meeting of
June 21, 2022
Held by Zoom Videoconferencing

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

1. Call to Order, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of Minutes, and Public Comments.

A. Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. In attendance were Committee Members Rick Atherton, Nelson (Snookie) Eldridge, Ed Gillum, Bill Grieder, Nat Lowell, Allen Reinhard, Rob Ranney, Lee Saperstein, and Phil Smith; there was a quorum at all times. All present responded to an attendance roll call. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed on the Town's You Tube site.

Supporter attending: TaKyra Netter, DPW staff.

B. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously by acclamation.

C. Public Comments. None.

D. Minutes. Secretary Lee Saperstein noted two spelling corrections to the draft minutes of May 17, 2022; final approval of which came upon motion by Bill Grieder, seconded by Snookie Eldridge, and voted unanimously by roll-call vote.

2. If Available, Ken Beaugrand Update on Road, Sidewalk, and Takings Projects.

Ken Beaugrand had indicated earlier to Allen Reinhard that he would not be available for this meeting and that, at this time, he had nothing new to report.

3. Beach Access Map Project.

This segment of the meeting began with a discussion of blocked site lines, including a comment by Phil Smith that many of the Public Way Monuments were obscured by vegetation. Allen Reinhard said that he would send a note to the DPW asking that brush be cut around these monuments. Allen Reinhard reported that Town Manager, Libby Gibson, had told him that there had been problems with the bidding process for landscaping that meant that the understaffed DPW was doing essential mowing, which left a shortage of people to deal with sight-line blockage and encroachments. Bill Grieder said that we should send the DPW a prioritized list of such blockages for emergency fixes. Allen Reinhard agreed and asked members to send him their needed fixes and he will collate them and send them onto the DPW.

Ed Gillum suggested that anything sent to the DPW should be copied to the Traffic Safety Work Group. He then added that New Lane at West Chester had a sight-line problem. Snookie Eldridge noted that there were a number of these problems in 'Sconset. Nat Lowell said that we should include places where the bike path is obscured and Ed Gillum added that encroachments from rocks and boulders placed on the road side are a major problem. Lee Saperstein noted that these are encroachments on the roadway and should be dealt with by the DPW.

Allen Reinhard noted also that there are places along Pleasant Street where vehicles coming from side streets cannot see on-coming traffic. Bill Grieder said that the same condition existed in Madaket. Ed Gillum noted, on the positive side, that utility poles were being removed along Warrens Landing Road because utilities were being buried underground. [Action: Allen Reinhard to write to the DPW with our list of concerns about sight lines and to ask that brush clearance from around Public Way monuments be a regular task.]

Allen Reinhard then returned the discussion to Beach Access points and suggested that a main goal of the project was to give the public information on these points. He thought that an App could be used to connect to the Town's GIS so that viewers could see the map of access points on the user's device. Lee Saperstein suggested that we meet again with Nathan Porter to explore the potential for modern mapping Apps to produce a map centered around the user's location. Allen Reinhard agreed that a status report from Nathan Porter would be a good idea for a future meeting.

Allen Reinhard reported that three of the major conservation associations, Mass Audubon, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, and the Nantucket Island Land Bank, are working to put their respective trail maps onto a single App: Nantucket ACKTrails (<https://www.nantucketconservation.org/acktrails/> or <https://acktrails.com/>). The next step will be to consolidate all of the trail guides into a single publication. Bill Grieder added that the beach access points can be added to these conservation organizations' trail maps. [Action: Ask Nathan Porter for a status report on the upgrade to Island maps.]

4. Charlie Polachi: Park and Recreation Projects and Public Access.

Charlie Polachi was unable to attend the meeting. Allen Reinhard spoke about the progress in sidewalk rebuilding along South Water Street and lower India Street.

5. Chapter 91 Project: Next Steps.

At Allen Reinhard's invitation, Phil Smith reported on the circumstances at 5 Little Neck Way where the land owner, upset by public mis-use of the rights on intertidal land, had placed ropes and signs to restrain public access. The owner, he said, understands the rules on access but remains upset by dogs allowed to run loose, contrary to Town Bylaw, on his land.

Allen Reinhard added that he has no new information on the legislative push to amend Chapter 91 to include the word “recreation” in the definition of allowable activities on intertidal lands.

6. Projects and Goals for FY 2023.

Allen Reinhard allowed as how it was time to bring the projects list up to date and asked committee members to bring their ideas on future projects to the next meeting. Phil Smith asked that, if a project is kept on the list, a status report on activity be appended to it. Committee members were interested clearly in activity along 57 Pleasant Street where substantial landscaping has been done by the land owner. Lee Saperstein noted that all new plantings on this property are outside of the layout of Pleasant Street thus providing space for a future sidewalk. He noted also that there has been a plan for building pedestrian access along Pleasant Street to the Sparks Avenue Rotary. It would be a good idea to have a status report from the Planning Department on this project. [Action: Ask the Transportation Planner to join us for a status report on Pleasant Street and other needed sidewalks.]

7. Future Meetings: In Person or Via Zoom. Location Options.

Allen Reinhard said that the previous meeting location, PLUS conference room, was no longer available but that there were two video equipped rooms in the trailer at 131 Pleasant Street. In a discussion on how best to meet, a consensus grew for in-person meetings provided that access and voting would be available by Zoom: a hybrid meeting in other words. Bill Grieder volunteered to find out from Erika Mooney if such meetings would be possible and she reported, post meeting, that it was likely.

Per Erika Mooney on June 23, 2022:

“As of right now, the provision for remote participation as we know it runs through July 15. That being said, the House approved extending it to Dec. 31, 2023, but it still needs Senate approval and to be signed by the Governor. Fingers crossed that happens before July 15!”

“We have limited meeting space. We have two rooms in the trailer at 131 Pleasant St, both fully equipped for hybrid meetings. If the remote meeting provision is not extended, you can still have remote participation by some members, but you would need a physical quorum present and the chair could not chair the meeting remotely. If anyone is remote, the votes have to be done by roll call.”

“If the provision is extended, then all committees can continue to meet remotely, which is much easier for some members. But we have the trailer if anyone wants to start meeting in person/hybrid.”

While the consensus was for hybrid meetings, other relevant comments included one person who thought that meetings should remain virtual. Rick Atherton said that, no matter how the meeting is held, meeting recordings are essential. Snookie Eldridge added that the Wannacomet Water Company conference room was video equipped and Phil Smith noted that committees, in the past, had used the Community Foundation conference room in Bayberry Court.

8. Old, New, and Other Business, and Member Comments,

None.

8. Adjourn.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm by a motion from Snookie Eldridge, seconded by Ed Gillum, and approved unanimously. The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on **Tuesday, July 19, 2022.** At present, this is scheduled as a Zoom meeting.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary _____ Date _____

Roads and Right of Way Outstanding Projects List:

Public Way Monument Project: (Lee & Allen & Snookie).

- Install remaining monuments at Sconset Footpath, Hulbert Ave., and other locations.
- Update file of existing monuments.
- Move monuments at Westchester St. Ext. & Crooked Lane.

Sidewalk Projects: (Lee & Allen).

- Prospect St. (sidewalk to Upper Vestal St.) and on to Madaket bike path.
- Cliff Rd. Coffin Park to bike path at Sherburne Tpk.
- Pleasant St. Gardner Perry Lane to Williams St.
- Lovers Lane Bike path and road reconstruction: follow progress.
- Follow implementation of downtown sidewalk improvements.
- Bike/Pedestrian connection from Surfside to Hummock Pond to Madaket paths.

Chapter 91 Monitor Project: (Lee, Rick, Phil).

- Make local license information available online.
- Harbor Walk Project, list of permits and approvals, Identify route.
- Chapter 91 licenses along route for the Harbor Walk.
- Locate other locations on waterfronts requiring licenses.

Nantucket Greenway and Trail System Project: (Allen, Lee).

- Nantucket Central Railroad trail map of route.
- Island Trail Map with all walking trails.